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May 2017

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RICK STEIN

On why Barnes enticed him back to London

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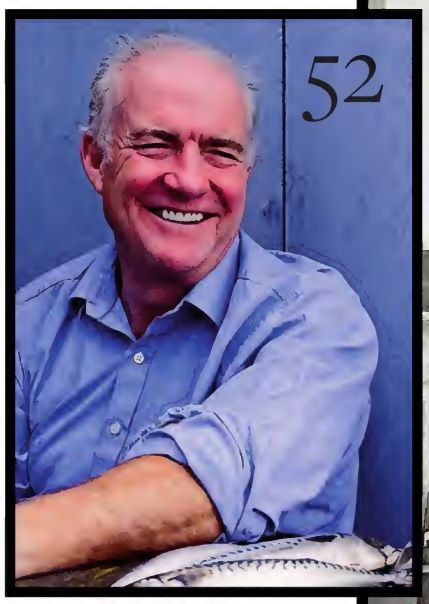

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DESIGN BY BAUHAUS, IMAGE COURTESY OF BATHROOMBRANDS.COM

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Letter from the EDITOR

I have mixed feelings about Cornwall. It is a truly wonderful part of the UK and every summer as a kid my family took me, my brother and cousins there for a sun-kissed holiday (well, I remember it being sun-kissed, but as it's the UK that probably wasn't the case at all). What's not to like? My father's insistence on always driving there – six hours in the back of a car, boiling hot, was something I always dreaded. Saying that, the 'are we there yet?' joke never wore thin five minutes into the journey.

But what I do give my father credit for is introducing me to Rick Stein and the joys of seafood. I was a fussy eater as a child and the sight of squidgy squid or messy mussels really did make me feel rather queasy. When we went to the fish and chip shop every Friday for the family takeaway to mark the beginning of the weekend, I was always the one who went for sausage in batter. However, during one of those summer breaks, we visited Padstow and Stein's restaurant, which was a real eye-opener for me and I was converted. Still, a six hour journey to sample his cooking was a bit off putting, so it's a joy to reveal that Stein has finally backed down about not opening a restaurant in London as he's the man behind The Depot's brand new incarnation. The local community have made it clear they don't want the Barnes favourite to be completely transformed, and having a read of his interview on page 52 suggests he has listened.

Water plays quite a big role in this issue. As you will gather from the front cover, this is our bi-annual bathroom special. Those in interiors circles have always gone on about the kitchen being the heart of the home, but a bathroom is the real sanctuary. Lock the door, run the bath, light a candle and just relax – magic. It's handy, too, that there are some wonderful bathroom designers out there today, so Kara O'Reilly picks out some of the finest. Our wonderful Homes Editor also has a new book out this month, celebrating the many ways indoor plants can transform any room in the house. Prepare your watering can and take a look at an extract from her book starting on page 38. I am sure it's going to make a real splash. Have a good month.

Mark

Mark Kebble, Group Editor

ELANOR TRAVERS (HAIR) AND ERIN FULLER (MAKE UP), GINA CONWAY PRIVÉ; GINACONWAYPRIVE.COM. PHOTO BY TOM DUNKLEY

ONLINE theresident.co.uk | **ON INSTAGRAM** @theresidentlondon

This month's top 3 Instagram posts from The Resident

Where to head to enjoy the springtime #sunshine? We're coveting @No197ChiswickFireStation's gorgeous rear courtyard...

Editorial assistant @rachelmantock goes behind the scenes at the newly revamped @BushTheatre

#TheShard shining bright! We love #springinLondon

HOMEWARD BOUND

He's walked across some of the world's most inhospitable and unexplored regions, but Levison Wood is back to inspire a new generation of intrepid adventurers at home in Hampton Court

Words JAKE TAYLOR

Throughout history, a select group of intrepid individuals have pushed the boundaries of expedition to bring us town and city dwellers news from the farthest flung reaches of the globe. From Livingston and Stanley to Sir Ranulph Fiennes himself, these explorers have scoured every inch of the planet in search of the mysteries enclosed within exotic climes. In the internet age, when one can just take to Google to see what's afoot in the Amazon or happening in the Himalayas, is there any stage left for these hardy travellers who make it their business to go where no man has gone before?

Levison Wood certainly believes so. 'Of course there's lots of adventures to be had and we can only experience them in time,' says the 34-year-old. 'Places change, borders change, some places come off the map, some places come back on, and there are ongoing political situations. So there are always new adventures to be had and places to be seen in the world of exploration.'

Having spent several years in the Parachute Regiment – including a tour of Afghanistan – Wood decided to put his practical knowledge of survival and lust for travel to use once his military career came to an end. His first great expedition, traversing the length of the Nile on foot, gave Wood the platform he needed to forge a new life as an explorer, supported by televised documentaries and accompanying books. His latest project, which was documented in the Channel 4 series and subsequent book *Walking the Americas*, saw the ex-soldier complete an 1,800-mile trek along the spine of the American continent, all the way from Mexico to Colombia.

'This expedition was different to the Nile or the Himalayas

Levison Wood has already tackled the Himalayas during his many expeditions

›

He may have travelled the length of the Nile, but London remains Wood's favourite city

in many, many ways,' he explains, in the matter-of-fact tone one might expect from someone who does this sort of thing all the time. 'It was a different environment, with lots of jungle and a lot more countries – eight in all this time. There were environmental factors like humidity, heat, and you've got a lot of creepy crawlies and snakes and things like that. But fewer hills, thankfully!'

Walking the Americas saw Wood tackle some of America's wildest environments, from the Yucatan peninsula to the near-untraversable swampland of the Darien Gap, which until recently was synonymous with the conflict in Colombia between FARC rebels and the country's government. Having crossed war zones and wilderness with equal ease, is there anything that still takes a man like Wood by surprise? 'I really don't like sharks, so that's why I avoid doing anything in the sea,' he admits. 'And I'm not a massive fan of spiders and scorpions, of which there were plenty. But I was surprised by the sheer beauty of Nicaragua, and getting up close and personal with a volcano was a new experience for me! The good thing about these walking expeditions is that there is always a surprise around the corner – like when we found a Mayan pyramid that had been lying hidden in the jungle for over a thousand years!'

And having successfully and safely returned from his latest journey, Wood is now focused on an expedition a little closer to home. Aided this time by all the benefits public and private transport have to offer, the explorer will be embarking on a 25-city tour of the UK entitled *An Evening With Levison Wood*. 'It's building on the series and the books,' he explains. 'I'll go into a bit more background about what led me to do what I'm doing now, and also it's going to be more interactive. People will have the opportunity to ask anything they want and I'll try to give them some good advice.'

Having completed walks on three continents in the last five years, this tour will give Wood a chance to get back to grips with the country of his birth. He may be quick to regale with incredible tales of foreign places, but the city that really captures his heart and imagination remains the capital in which he resides. 'I would say London is my favourite city,' agrees the Hampton Court Village local. 'But I keep falling in and out of love with it. It's always so busy and there's so much going on at all times that it's very easy to get distracted from what's important! I find it's nice to have a bit of peace and quiet as well.'

This reluctance to indulge in a full-throttle attitude every day seems atypical of Wood, who is already in the initial stages of sorting out a fourth massive expedition – although he's frustratingly coy when it comes to any specifics. 'Most of my time is spent planning the next one. I'm never just sitting around,' he says. 'Travel is basically my life and I spend most of my life either travelling or doing the rounds afterwards. For the past few months it's been writing the book and doing talks and doing all the publicity and things, but soon enough I'll be ready and all planned for the next one – though I'll try to fit a holiday in at some point!'

I would say London is my favourite city. There's always so much going on

And Wood is keen to stress that even though he may have made a living touring the world's most exciting places, the best place for the next generation of explorers to start is right at home. 'I am constantly amazed by the hospitality we encounter along our way in every expedition and humbled by the interest everyone shows in what we're doing,' he concludes. 'But you don't need to go half way around the world to have an adventure – just start outside your front door.'

Walking the Americas by Levison Wood is published by Hodder & Stoughton in hardcover at £20

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RECOMMENDS

Our guide to the best family outdoor activities

1 OUTDOOR TROTTERS

Suitable for children as young as four and teenagers as old as 18, Shetland pony and horse riding at Stag Lodge Stables is the perfect way to keep your offspring active and outdoors. From getting tiny tots comfortable with horses and introducing them to their first rides to helping young adults master jumps and dressage, Stag Lodge Stables does it all.

Robin Hood Gate SW15 3RS; 020 8949 6999; ridinginlondon.com

2 TOUCH HISTORY

Over 200 soldiers lost their lives at the Battle of Brentford, while Vincent Van Gogh famously taught bible scripture along the riverside in Isleworth – you can visit both of these locations on a private guided Hounslow Heritage walk where these tales serve as the lifeblood of the guided spectacle. Marvel at Syon House, Chiswick's Palladian Villa, Boston Manor and Osterley House up close.

hounslow-heritage.org.uk/heritagewalks

3 OFF TO THE FARM

Make a day of it and take the whole family on a trip to Hounslow Urban Farm. It's a little slice of country bliss inside a city landscape and gives us west Londoners a chance to get away from it all for a second. Set across an impressive 29 acres, it's one of London's largest community farms with resident pigs, goats, cows, rabbits, ducks, geese, alpacas and even peacocks ready to become your furry friends. Let the kids enjoy pony rides while you master the art of owl handling.

Faggs Road TW14 0LZ; 020 8831 9658

4 MAKING WAVES

As the weather heats up, why not enjoy a leisurely lap or two at Richmond Pools in the Park with a shimmering view of Old Deer Park in the sunlight in full view. Get on track with your summer fitness by getting in a few laps before work or opt for one of their Aqua Fit classes. You can have fun for all the family at Richmond Pools in the Park or enjoy it alone to unwind, zen out and re-centre.

Old Deer Park TW9 2SF; 020 3772 2999; richmond.gov.uk

5 DEER SPOTTING

Make the most of the former deer hunting ground of Richmond Park this month. It still has over 650 wild red and fallow deer living free in its vast expanses of grass, foliage and ancient trees. Known for its impressive collection of historic oaks and endangered fungi, as well as a number of rare beetles. A day exploring nature in Richmond Park will leave you all the wiser about nature.

TW10 5HS; 0300 061 2200; royalparks.org.uk

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DO LOOK NOW

To mark 50 years since Pink Floyd released their first single, Arnold Layne, the V&A presents The Pink Floyd Exhibition: Their Mortal Remains. From 13 May this will be an immersive, multi-sensory and theatrical journey through Pink Floyd's extraordinary world, a story of sound, design and performance.
vam.ac.uk

ARENA

{THE FINEST EVENTS IN LONDON THIS MONTH}

Adding spice to Surrey

The Surrey Food Festival will be held at Old Deer Park, Richmond-Upon-Thames, on 22 April from 10am-7pm. This will be a thoroughly extravagant foodie sensual assault, with local businesses showcasing an exquisite range of different food and drink, traders demonstrating and selling their products in the Marketplace, and a Kids Zone to keep your little ones entertained while you indulge.
For ticket information and pricing, visit surreyfoodfestival.com

From the Hart

Multi award-winning comedy writer, actor and author Miranda Hart will make her West End debut as Miss Hannigan in *Annie*, opening at the Piccadilly Theatre on 23 May. This is the latest take on the classic story of brave young Annie, and it will be interesting to see Hart's approach to spiteful Miss Hannigan.
anniewestend.com

MATT CROCKETT

Find even more great #ThingsToDo in London online at theresident.co.uk

Bags of fun

Arguably the most heart-warming event of the year, Marylebone Village will once again host Dog Day Afternoon on 20 May, brought to us by Cabbages & Frocks. There will be plenty of cute dogs on show, with many treats to keep them occupied, plus the return of the awards with a difference. Will your mutt walk off with the bit of ruff gong, best dog trick, the new kid on the block, or the oldie, but goodie?

cabbagesandfrocks.co.uk

Capturing London

Photo London was created to give the capital an international photography event befitting the city's status as a global cultural capital. This third edition, running from 18-21 May at Somerset House, will bring together the world's best photographers, curators, and dealers to celebrate the best in photography.

photolondon.org

FLOWER POWER

From 23-27 May, discover nine Show Gardens, five Fresh Gardens, nine Artisan Gardens and more than 100 floral displays as the Chelsea Flower Show returns. The Great Pavilion will again be the jewel in the Chelsea Flower Show crown, a 12,000 sq ft marquee featuring the very best from the world's finest nurseries, growers and florists.

rhs.org.uk

GLOBAL FINANCE

Recent work by Tom Martin is an exploration of the idea that we are controlled by money. This hyperrealistic show at Plus One Gallery from 17 May will show the power of money.

plusonegallery.com

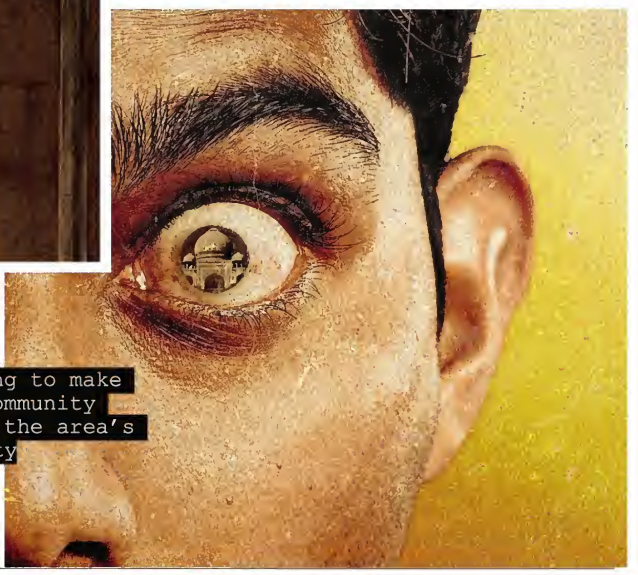
Bush Theatre has recently reopened after an extensive refurbishment

WAKING *the* MASSES

Why Orange Tree Theatre and Bush Theatre are putting conscious performances that tap into modern struggles centre stage

Words RACHEL MANTOCK

Guards at Taj will continue the 2017 season in the newly revitalised Bush Theatre, running from 7 April – 20 May 2017



Younis is striving to make Bush Theatre a community hub that reflects the area's cultural diversity

Shepherd's Bush and Richmond have long been hotspots for alternative theatre, challenging creative minds with a knack for acting to push themselves beyond the limit. After raising millions of pounds in funding, the community focused Bush Theatre has recently reopened after undergoing an extensive refurbishment that has brought the historic building into the 21st century, while simultaneously stripping some parts of it back to reveal its historic roots.

A hop, skip and a jump away in Richmond, the small but powerful – and not for profit – Orange Tree Theatre is refining its offering to include current social issues at the forefront, by reviving older plays with messages that still pack an eerie punch today. Back at Bush Theatre, they are also launching a socially charged theatre season that has a particular focus on race issues, past and present. We caught up with the directors of both of these vibrant hotspots to find out why conscious theatre is at the top of their agendas this year…

THE REAL INCLUSIVE

Bush Theatre's creative director Madani Younis took over the budding performance space in 2012 and was the first ethnic theatre director ever in London. After leading the effort to raise millions to support the theatre's much-needed refurbishment, Younis left no innovative stone unturned, getting everyone from theatrical partners to actors involved. This resulted in quirky touches throughout, with old school Hollywood dressing room mirrors in the spacious backstage changing rooms, to a seating area that has cut outs with doors in the walls to allow actors to see what is going on in the main auditorium in its entirety, allowing them to think and rehearse with stage space in mind.

We are very mindful of the social inequalities that exist and we speak up for all

The Bush Theatre team have also introduced a second smaller auditorium that they hope will serve as a tool for emerging artists to showcase the work. Upstairs they have an enviable staff roof terrace, an industrial style rehearsal space, as well as a traditional looking office that will be lent out to playwrights in residence free of charge to give them their own space to create history in. The main performance space has been completely revamped in jet black, with the seating area expanded significantly to allow more community locals to enjoy their rich and compelling art.

Outside, they have made space for a glorious terrace that comes to life in the sun, right next to the eclectic Shepherd's Bush Market. Younis explains that most importantly they wanted Bush Theatre to become a community hub, whereby locals can stop by for a bite to eat, to learn and unwind in the mid-century style library, as well as socialising and networking on the summer terrace, allowing it to exist outside of simply plays and performance.

'We relaunched the theatre with the powerful *Black Lives, Black Words*, which is a direct response and continuation of the #BlackLivesMatter movement,' Younis says. 'Global and local politics plays heavy in all of our minds at the moment and that's why *Black Lives, Black Words* just felt right as the opening act. It's a hopeful performance that comes from a place of love and optimism. After the Brexit vote, we saw a 200% in racist attacks in our local community here. We are very mindful of the social inequalities that exist, and in this building we speak up for all and not just for some.'

bushtheatre.co.uk

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ITALIA

Low Level Panic sees four female flatmates speak about their experiences as women in a bathroom

Orange Tree Theatre's Artistic Director Paul Miller says their offering is like no other

TIME MACHINE

Over in Richmond, the Orange Tree Theatre have embarked upon a season of past and present, mixing in brand new plays by emerging writers with 'interesting rivals from the past'. They've made a conscious effort to select slightly unloved, underrated plays in a bid to breathe new life into them, many of which contain important themes that are just as relevant today as they were back when the plays were first written.

They opened the season with *Winter Solstice* by the German playright Roland Schimmelpfennig, a dark comedy to do with the lurking danger of Nazism and Fascism in Europe, which has been nominated for four Off West End awards. Up next is *Low Level Panic*, a 30-year-old play about four females in a bathroom discussing their experiences as women in the 80s, a piece of drama that has proven extremely popular among women of all ages at the much loved Orange Tree Theatre so far.

It's got this unique intimacy because there are only 180 wrapped around the stage

Artistic Director Paul Miller says: 'The interesting thing about *Low Level Panic* is that it should no longer be relevant, but unfortunately it is still as relevant as ever, which is why I think it has struck a chord with women of all ages who are coming to see it. They are able to relate to it in one way or another.'

Speaking of what sets Orange Tree Theatre apart in an area that's home to the famous Richmond Theatre, with the likes of Kingston Upon Thames' Rose Theatre nearby too, Miller explains: 'The experience of sitting in our auditorium is like no other. It's got this unique intimacy because there are only 180 people wrapped around the stage. The guiding principle we use when selecting our plays is that what you see here, you can't see anywhere else, and that goes for the new and the old.

'We always want our plays to be making a statement about life as it is today,' Miller continues. 'Even the older plays should have some commentary on modern society, even it's to point out how it has or hasn't changed.'

It would seem that the west London area is experiencing a performance revival whereby it's out with the big classics and in with the socially conscious. In a bid to slowly but surely chip away at British theatre's elitist nature whereby Western issues and European history take prevalence, leaving little room for much else, both Bush Theatre and Orange Tree Theatre are hurtling full speed ahead into the modern day, tackling the big issues of the moment head on.

orangetreetheatre.co.uk

PICS: HELEN MURRAY

Above, the Ibiza home Godrich Interiors injected life into, and below, their classic design of a west London home

ADAPTABLE THINKING

We caught up with Olaf Street's Godrich Interiors to talk about their unconventional approach to design that's reached as far as Spain

Words: RACHEL MANTOCK

An exuberant design firm with an unorthodox way of tackling design and innovation, Godrich Interiors' Ed Godrich reveals the thinking behind their overhaul of a west London property, and their heavy input into the colourful landscape of an Ibiza home that's splashed against a chalky white backdrop. From subtly bold, understated one off pieces that offset a whole room to banishing the 'just finished' look in favour of a more genuine approach, the Godrich Interiors team take on any brief and make the desired result a reality…

What was the inspiration behind setting up Godrich Interiors? Our inspiration is to give the interiors market something different. We want to create unique homes for clients and they arrive at Godrich Interiors for this very reason. They don't want their house to look like their friend's house; and in turn for this our clients become very loyal to us. We have just completed our sixth project for one of our most long-standing clients!

Would you say you are more traditionalists or modernists? We are a mixture of the two, encompassing everything in between. We love a contemporary layout that is not cluttered, using items from lots of different eras. We love a challenge and we look to genres that are not necessarily in fashion to source those really special items that a client would never expect to like. We love the surprise on someone's face when they see something wild and off the wall that we've suggested but they love it! We are not scared to experiment at all.

How do you keep things fresh, new and innovative? It's very easy to get stuck in a cycle of projects that all blend into one. We are very lucky that we have clients who want fresh creativity and that keeps us on our toes. We wouldn't be in the business if our clients' wanted houses like everyone else. You have to constantly be thinking, what else? What hasn't been seen? What wouldn't be expected? Every year we add new suppliers to our core group and many of these are young designers straight from art college or university who provide us with new material to work with.

Talk us through your design of the west London home. How did you create such a timeless interior? We were lucky enough to have a client who had impeccable taste before we started, which is always a bonus for us. There was a specific brief and deco furniture was at the core of it. Deco is under rated and we were really happy to be able to work with it to create a classic gents residence. We crept into the 50s and 60s too, which gave us a balanced and timeless end result. We make sure that our schemes don't date! If you fall into the trap of creating something that follows a current trend, it has an expiry date.

For me, resurrecting crazy objects from the past is a relentless obsession

With your Ibiza project, how did you create something bold and modern while not getting rid of the traditionalist Spanish feel? Again, we were lucky to have such a great client who had excellent taste and wanted something lightweight but timeless for their holiday home. There are things from the 40s, 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s in this house. We had an amazing time sourcing. The relaxed brief gave us licence to find products from some really great locations. In Ibiza, anything goes, there is such a laid back approach to life there, so this project gave us the opportunity to tap into that.

What can we expect from Godrich Interiors in the next year or two? Any exciting projects on the horizon? We have just bought a 2,000 sq ft space in an Art Deco warehouse in Acton that we are refurbishing as Godrich's theatre set. It's on a great industrial street called Warple Way, where Acton, Shepherds Bush and Chiswick meet. It's a really exciting pocket of west London that feels very urban and untouched. It is on the move and only a ten minute drive from our offices in Holland Bush (where Holland Park meets Shepherd's Bush). Nothing beats unearthing something unloved, forgotten and out of fashion. For me, resurrecting crazy objects from the past is a relentless obsession.

How do you consider the environment when renovating?
In projects out of London, we will always try to use woodchip boilers and we encourage clients to create natural habitats for pond life, insects and birds. In London, where there is outside space, we always suggest adding a small vegetable garden and a greenhouse. It might sound really small fry in terms of the 'global' environment, but how great is it to be able to ask your kids to go and pick a bunch of fresh carrots from the garden in central London?

Studio 3, The Peoples Hall, 2 Olaf Street W11 4BE; 020 7229 3966; godrichinteriors.com

FULL OF PERSONALITY

This Sinclair Road apartment was made for the cool crowd with broody tones and sparky touches, creating the ultimate modern day pad

Words EMILY MILLER

Nestled away in W14, a quirky and unique space fit for any Londoner sits snugly, ready for us to take a nosey peek around. It is owned by Amber and her sister India Whalley – the latter is founder of The Dot Project, a contemporary art gallery – and both have always had a deep interest in interior design. Amber describes the main entertaining space as 'a fairground and the rest of the house is a juxtaposition. I am a massive fan of mixing older works of furniture with modern contemporary art'.

When Amber and her sister first bought the home, it was a far cry from how it looks now. 'The layout of the house just didn't work when I first saw it, but I knew there was potential to make it much bigger,' she explains. The 'snug', as the sisters call it, is situated under the stairs away from the rest of the flat, so it has a low ceiling that makes it feel cosier. Determined to make the space work, Amber decided to build a bed into the wall and filled it with decorative pillows for maximum comfort effect.

'That's my favourite thing about the home because on the weekend you can just crawl in there and relax,' Amber smiles. 'There were also no en-suites in the house, and the kitchen used to be a long alley kitchen so it was quite dark. We decided to open it all up and make it more functional for ourselves, but also for families that might own the place in future.'

While style was important, the sisters wanted to renovate in a way that made the property more functional too. 'The space now feels modern without being clinical, and it's a fantastic entertainment space,' says Amber. Thinking about her design inspirations, she adds: 'I would go around to the antique shops around Golborne Road and just mix and match. The sofas look old, but they are actually new from Delcor, and the mirror is an old Victorian window! We built the entire space around the mirror – we wanted that to be the focal point. The kitchen was made by Plain English Kitchens because we wanted that heritage look.' She also explains that they decided on the modern shutters in an attempt to throw in some uber modern touches. They picked the glass walled bathroom in one of the bedrooms for the same reason, but ›

We decided to open the whole house up and make it more functional for ourselves, but also for future owners

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paired it with vintage bathroom fittings such as the pull down cord for the toilet.

'I really love my shower – all the fittings are really old, but the glass gives it that contemporary wow factor,' says Amber. 'In the main bedroom, when the wardrobe is shut it looks like a long corridor. The flooring throughout the house is polished concrete and we fitted under floor heating. That really comes in handy in the winter as it warms the whole house, and we both love the small blemishes and details within the floor such as the little rocks and spots of fading colour.'

Speaking of the coveted prime central location, she enthuses: 'It has amazing pubs in the area and is really central to everything. It is also really close to Notting Hill and you can take the Central Line and be East in 20 minutes'.

Amber hopes the space she and her sister created will attract someone who will enjoy the space for many years, and imagines they'll be artsy and creative like them too. 'A house as unique as this, so close to Notting Hill, is practically a steal,' she says. 'Lots of young buyers are being pushed out of areas like Notting Hill, which are in the next price bracket. Where we are, you have all the joys of Notting Hill without the hefty price tag,' she explains. 'This home has so much potential for entertainment and a free spirited vibe mixed with modern touches that is perfect for any Londoner really.'

Whatever your preference, you can't deny that this home has pizzazz, spark and charm all rolled into one, an eclectic mix with knick knacks and elements cherry picked from different eras, past and present.

Sinclair Road, W14, is on the market for £1,150,000 with Marsh & Parsons Brook Green; 020 7605 7760

This home has so much potential for entertainment and a free spirited vibe that is perfect for any Londoner

BATHING BEAUTIES

Clean up the look of your bathroom with the latest ideas for making your washroom a little less of a wash out

Story KARA O'REILLY

Opposite page
COP THIS
The design cognoscenti are still embracing softer metallics such as copper and brass. And what could be more glamorous than a bath in one of these finishes?
The Copper Bateau, from £4,500, catchpoleandrye.com

This page
BACK TO BLACK
Deeply pigmented hues are the colours of choice for the chicest interiors and, as this scheme shows, can make a real impact when put to use in a bathroom. Just ensure you have good lighting to compensate for darker walls.
Atlantic basin and washstand with glass legs, £1,700; Domino wall tiles in black gloss, £125 per sq m; Abbey floor tiles in Woburn, £90 per sq m; Xaviera lights, £225 each, and Bastide mirror, £900, all firedearth.com

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Clockwise from top left

BRIGHT STUFF
There's a bit of a backlash against simple white bathrooms at the moment, with designers re-introducing pattern and colour in a big way. Embrace the trend and choose a saturated shade for the exterior of your bath and set against a contrasting colour on the walls. Remember: if you grow tired of either, re-paint for a completely different look.
Bute double-ended cast-iron bath, from £5,490, drummonds-uk.com

WINNING PAIR
Take the 'yours 'n' mine' sinks idea up a level. Be inspired by the designs of boutique hotel bathrooms – in this case, Hotel du Vin – and, if you have the room, think about installing a pair of facing slipper baths. All the better for sharing a soak in style.
Astonian cast-iron slipper baths, £1,397 each, astonmatthews.co.uk

HOT TUB
The new take on a freestanding bath: generously proportioned, with minimal, modernist lines. It's the contemporary way to introduce a bold focal point into your bathroom.
Edge bath, from £3,925, vandabaths.com

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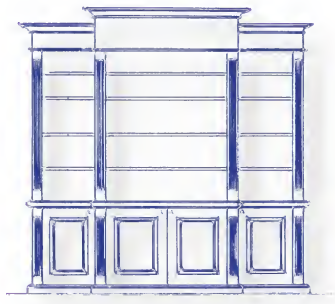

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Clockwise from top left

VANITY CASE

Now here's an idea: why not incorporate your dressing table into your bathroom scheme? After all, the bathroom is often the best-lit spot in the house – good for applying make-up – and, with clever design, a dressing table area can result in additional storage.

See more bathroom ideas in The Perfect Bath by Barbara Sallick (Rizzoli, £35). Sallick is the co-founder of bathroom specialists, Waterworks, waterworks.com

SPACE SAVER

Maximise all the space in a small shower room by choosing a wall-mounted design that fits into a corner making the most of this underused area. This corner unit is part of a range of five different-sized sink units, with the options of a walnut or eucalyptus finish – which give a nod to mid-century modern design.

Svelte wall-mounted corner unit, £1,275, bauhaus-bathrooms.co.uk

ON THE TILES

Mix and match your tile styles for an eye-catching look that introduces a design element to the room without it being too overwhelming. The key to making it work is by ensuring the tiles you choose are all from the same family of materials or colour.

Leighton freestanding bath, £2,499; basin with nickel-plated washstand, £1,914; and high-level WC, £2,160, all thomas-crapper.com

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Heal's has a long pedigree for supporting and stocking the best in home design and this year it celebrates with Heal's 100 – the ultimate edit of 100 products sold at Heal's both past and present, whether big-name design icons or own-label pieces.
On show at Tottenham Court Road 8 May-8 June, heals.com

Don't move, improve
The founder of Cat Dal Interiors believes every room should sing. 'I believe good design can stimulate, comfort and excite the spirit,' she says. Dal delivers chic yet cosy interiors with occasional bursts of daring colour. She is a passionate perfectionist, and her laid-back yet luxurious schemes are often jam-packed with rich jewel colours, bespoke furniture and authentic materials. 'I approach each project with an open mind to create something unique. I hope it's always chic and a little playful.'
Find out more by emailing cat@catdalinteriors.com, calling 020 7823 2527, or visiting catdalinteriors.com

HOMES *NOTEBOOK*

Kara O'Reilly rounds up the latest in interiors

AVE MARIA

Hats off to Harvey Maria – the vinyl-floor company has followed up on the success of its Parquet collection by pattern designer Neisha Crosland with a brand new design, Check. Crosland has taken inspiration from timeless tiled flooring designs for her geometric motif. Practical flooring with panache – what's not to love? Check vinyl floor tiles, £44.80 per sq m, harveymaria.com

Graphic designs

After a chance meeting while on holiday in Cornwall, Deborah Fiddy, co-founder of silk bedding specialist Gingerlily, has collaborated with textile designer Alice Selwood to come up with these rather striking limited-edition embroidered silk cushions.
£469 each, exclusively available at Harrods, harrods.com

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CHAPLINS

LUXURY LIFESTYLE LIVING

Intersperse plants with favourite objects for a more personal display. From left: *Aloe vera, Echeveria, Portulacaria afra* 'Variegata' (elephant food) and *Zamioculcas zamiifolia. Platycerium bifurcatum* (staghorn fern) in the hearth

TIP: Use tepid water for watering and never leave a houseplant standing in water. Less is more: the general rule of thumb is if the top of the compost looks dry and powdery, you need to water

GREEN HOUSE

There's no doubt about it, houseplants are hot. In this extract from her new book, Kara O'Reilly gives some introductory pointers on creating an indoor plant scheme

Use hanging planters for a more interesting bedroom display. From left: *Rhipsalis baccifera* (mistletoe cactus), *Epipremnum aureum* (devil's ivy) and *Tradescantia* (wandering Jew)

Choose humidity-loving plants for a bathroom. From left: *Tradescantia* (wandering Jew); *Hedera helix* (English ivy); *Nephrolepsis exaltata* (sword fern); *Schefflera* (umbrella tree) and *Peperomia scandens* 'Variegata' (variegated Cupid peperomia)

There is no doubt that houseplants are having a moment. For a nation of gardeners, of recent times we have been surprisingly circumspect when it comes to indoor plants. But with the return of a more eclectic, individual approach to decorating our homes, it was only a matter of time before all those on-trend botanical prints were added to – maybe even superseded – by the real plants that inspired them.

You will have probably observed the creeping return of greenery in the way some of the chicest folk decorate their pads; how all the cool interiors companies are upping the variety of plant pots in their ranges and spotted the resurgence of both terrariums and hanging planters as decorative elements in the design of the most cutting-edge boutique restaurants and shops. Well, now is the time to embrace the trend and run with it in your own home.

TRENDS

The overwhelming design choice is for evergreen plants. Think cacti and succulents, as well as dramatic, larger-scaled plants such as those 1970s favourites, the *Monstera deliciosa* (Swiss cheese plant) or *Fatsia japonica* (castor oil plant). The aesthetic appeal of all these plants is their bold shapes and, because of this, impact within an interior. If you look at them as pieces of living art that can bring additional interest to your home, it becomes easier to know which varieties to choose and where to put them.

DESIGN

Before you rush off to the nearest nursery, take a good look at the space you want your plants to go to get a sense of its overall feel and arrangement. What have been your design influences? What style of furniture do you own? What kind of art have you chosen? What is your main colour scheme? Ditto accent colours? Where, exactly, are you hoping to put the plants?

Next up: the plants. Collect images of the varieties that you are drawn to, as well as containers and plant stands you like, plus planting ideas that appeal – Pinterest is a useful tool for this. Light is incredibly important for a plant's survival, so, before you buy, research whether the proposed position will meet the lighting requirements of each plant. You also have to decide on the care, commitment and time you are willing to give your plants. There is no point in coming up with a striking 'indoor jungle' scheme, say, if you are not the kind of person who is going to regularly dust down, prune and correctly water your plants.

DISPLAY

You don't need masses of plants to make a statement – it comes down to how they are arranged and displayed. And remember that the space between your plants is as important as the plants themselves. Choosing plants of the same colour or perhaps using the same container in different sizes is an easy way to create a cohesive design.

If you put your mind to it, you can use pretty much anything as a container for an indoor plant. What you choose depends on the look of your home and the effect you want to achieve. Over-the-top mix-and-match vintage jugs and cups can look just as striking as slick, modern, metallic pots – it's all about context. Also, take into account the shape, scale and look of the actual plant you are potting up – a *Howea forsteriana* (Kentia palm), for example, lends itself to a complementary woven raffia basket, but looks just as fabulous in a contrasting square geometric planter.

Key display ideas that are really worth a try are terrariums – after all, everyone loves a self-contained, self-sufficient indoor garden; hanging plants with the aid of macramé and sky planters, or landscaping shelves, mantelpieces or windowsills with a considered grouping of plants and other objets. Just remember that if you are grouping plants, odd numbers always look better.

Create an indoor kitchen garden with a selection of edible plants, such as *Citrus japonica* (kumquat); *Citrus x microcarpa* (calamondin orange); mixed herbs and *Capsicum annuum* (chilli pepper)

Ceramic wallscape planters, from £16 each, westelm.co.uk

BACK IN VOGUE

Once consigned to the style compost heap, these stalwarts of 1970s houseplant schemes are seriously back in favour. All are evergreen with striking silhouettes and interesting leaf shapes, which means they make an instant impact on an interior:

- ASPIDISTRA ELATIOR (cast iron plant)
- ASPLENIUM NIDUS (bird's nest fern)
- CHLOROPHYTUM COMOSUM (spider plant)
- FATSIA JAPONICA (castor oil plant)
- FICUS ELASTICA 'DECORA' (rubber plant)
- MONSTERA DELICIOSA (Swiss cheese plant)
- PHILODENDRON XANADU (philodendron)
- SANSEVIERIA TRIFASCIATA (mother-in-law's tongue)

BOOK OFFER

At Home with Plants (£20, Mitchell Beazley) is available to The Resident readers for £14 (inc p&p). To order, please call 01903 828503 quoting Plants MB668. Offer subject to availability, please allow 7 days for delivery

Create an eye-catching still life by choosing complementary containers for your plants, such as these: *Aloe variegata* (partridge breast aloe), *Asparagus setaceus* (asparagus fern), a *Spathiphyllum wallisii* (peace lily) and an *Asplenium nidus* (bird's nest fern)

TIP: The paler the colour of the walls and ceiling, the more natural light is reflected around the room; the opposite is true for dark colours, which absorb light. Be aware of this when you are positioning plants

WHERE TO BUY

ARCHITECTURAL PLANTS (architecturalplants.com). This is the go-to for bold, architectural varieties – think stand-alone statement plants. Has a selection of palms, yuccas and succulents that would work indoors.

CACTUSLAND AT SOUTHFIELD NURSERIES (cactusland.co.uk). The largest collection of cacti in the UK, with around 750 varieties to choose from.

THE CHELSEA GARDENER (chelseagardener.com). Has an extensive range of indoor plants, plus the pots to plant them in.

CLIFTON NURSERIES (clifton.co.uk). Very stylish. Selling a lovely range of plants.

CRAIG HOUSE CACTI (craighousecacti.co.uk). Multiple Chelsea Gold Medal winners.

DIBLEYS NURSERIES (dibleys.com). The specialists in *Streptocarpus* (Cape Primrose). Also stock selected houseplants.

EVERY PICTURE TELLS A STORY (every-picture.com). Where to go if you are after a member of the spectacular bromeliad group of plants.

JEKKA'S HERB FARM (jekkasherbfarm.com). The largest collection of culinary herbs in the UK.

MCBEAN'S ORCHIDS (mcbeansorchids.com). Established in 1879, this orchid nursery lays claim to being the oldest in the UK.

THE URBAN BOTANIST (theurbanbotanist.co.uk). Has a range of good-value, ready-planted contemporary terrariums.

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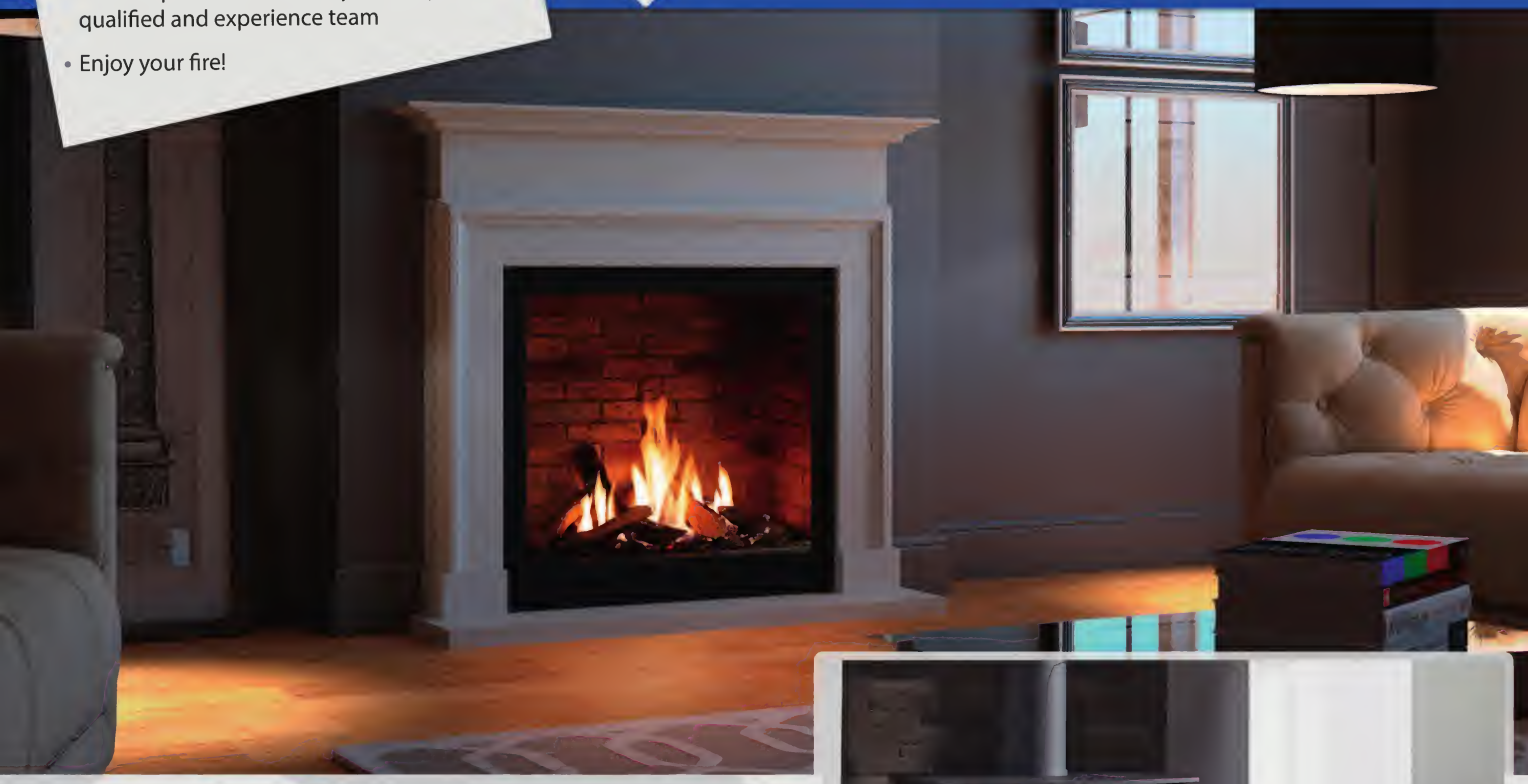

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TOM PARKER BOWLES

Why London's restaurant scene never fails to inspire

London is the greatest eating city on earth. Sure, you'll get better French food in Paris, finer Cantonese in Hong Kong. But nowhere do quite so many nationalities, cultures and religions rub along, for the most part, so merrily together. We're a city built on immigration, and that's what makes us great.

Anyway, coming up in June is London Food Month, which celebrates the capital's wonderfully diverse tucker, from high to low. Nightmarkets, mash-ups, masterclasses and much more. I'm Creative Director, alongside the Evening Standard's divine Grace Dent. Visit londonfoodmonth.co.uk to find out more. In the meantime, here are my ten favourite London restaurants. Not the best, rather the ones I love most. At this moment in time. Tomorrow, the list could be quite different. That's the thing about London. So much to eat, so little time to do it….

The Wolseley The spirit of London pumps thick through this iconic restaurant's veins. Open all day long, it's always abuzz with gossip, intrigue and deals being done. The food is brasserie meets mittel European, and service is ever-slick.

Barrafina Adelaide Street is my favourite, but I also love Dean Street too. Tip-top tapas, a daily changing Specials boards, plus own label sherry and wine. There's no booking, so expect to queue. But worth every second of the wait.

St John Another icon of London, from co-proprietors Fergus Henderson and Trevor Gulliver, this is about good ingredients, treated with respect. Sure, there's offal. But expect the very finest British seasonal tucker too. A place made for lingering over a long lunch.

Scott's Slick, smooth and expensive, Scott's is also as reliable as a Bentley. Native oysters in season, two sizes of Dover sole, and endless other piscine pleasures. Immaculate service too.

Roka Those Korean lamb chops, the crab rice hot pot, proper sushi and sashimi – Roka (the original, in Charlotte Street) never lets you down. Consistently packed, it also has a huge sake list, and standards never, ever drop.

Hereford Road Small, unpretentious and run by Tom Pemberton, former Head Chef of St John Bread and Wine, this is a temple to great British cooking. Prices are ridiculously low, and the service every bit as fine as the cooking.

The River Café On a sunny day, there's nowhere I'd rather be. Again, the finest Italian ingredients, treated with devotional respect. I've never had a bad bite here. Chef and owner Ruthie Rogers is the adored Queen of it all.

We're a city built on immigration and that's what makes us great

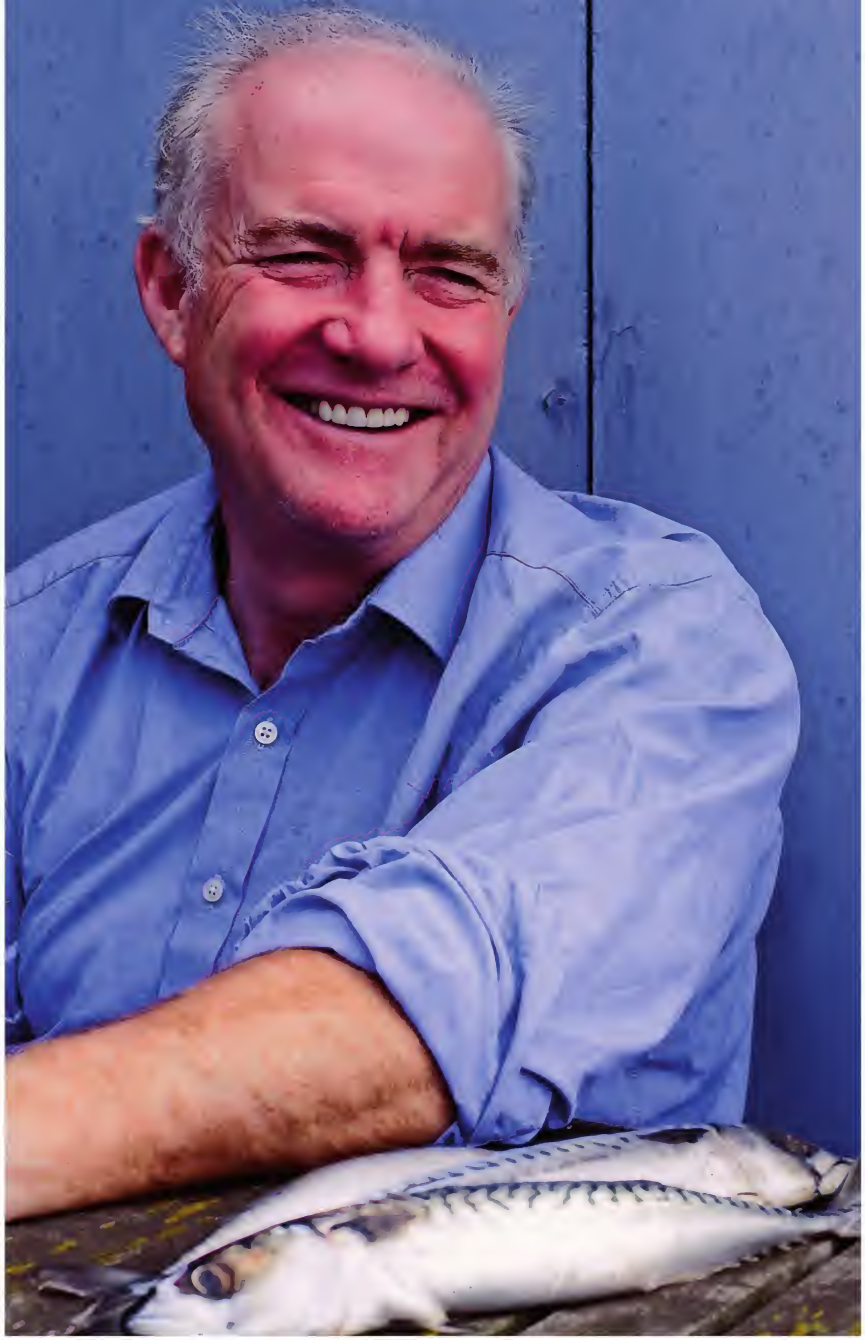
Barrafina makes Tom's current top ten

Indian Zing Far more than a mere Hammersmith curry house, this is regional Indian food at its finest. Manoj Vasaikar is a spice master.

Som Saa Real Thai food, with none of the honky, stinky, filthy and often searingly hot edges removed. Bliss.

Royal China Club Upmarket Cantonese tucker, with cracking shellfish and my favourite dim sum in town.

El Pastor At long last, proper Mexican food in London. Home made tortillas, proper carnitas and smoky El Pastor that reminds me of Mexico City.



FISHY BUSINESS

Rick Stein said he'd never open a London restaurant – but he didn't take into account the lure of Barnes

Words EMILY MANSON

It's fair to say that The Depot in Barnes and Rick Stein could both be described as institutions. And the biggest news in west London's culinary scene is that, if you haven't already heard (drumroll please), these two institutions are joining forces. After 30 years of pretty much defining local brasserie, The Depot's founding fathers have sold up, and the restaurant is beginning a new era under the reins of the iconic chef-restaurateur.

Having always professed that he would never open a London restaurant, Stein readily admits that what attracted him to the gorgeous riverside site in Barnes is that it's as London as he can get without feeling like you're actually in London.

He's an enthusiastic convert to the Village and his new home across the river in Chiswick, although he cheerily confesses he was initially nervous about the move back to the capital with his second wife Sarah – but now he loves it. 'It's a really special part of London,' he says, enthusing about the interesting food shops, butchers, greengrocers, even Chiswick House and the swimming pool around the corner from his new home, where he takes a daily dip.

Stein and water is a common link – whether it's in his Cornish HQ of Padstow or now his falling for The Depot, where he explains one of the things he loves most is that 'the views are almost more important than the food'. So what does he intend to do with this riverside institution? During the last few months of refurbishment, he good-naturedly tells me of being hauled aside at various points by locals warning him not to change ANYTHING. 'A couple of regulars gave me a sound ticking off and

Stein will be bringing a taste of the coast to Barnes

Stein's passion for seafood is evident in the new menu

We are keeping true to the heart of The Depot. It's not going to become a fancy restaurant, it will stay as a great place for friends to meet

warned me not to change a thing!' he exclaims, before adding: 'Although we have made some changes, we're keeping true to the heart of The Depot – it's not going to become a fancy restaurant, it'll stay as a great place for friends to meet.'

Most of the refurbishment money went into the kitchen and the drains anyway, he adds frankly, as after three decades they needed a total overhaul. So apart from making the windows bigger, re-covering banquettes and some other light touches all designed by his ex-wife Jill and children Kate and Edward, the actual restaurant will seem very familiar – even the beloved parquet floor remains intact.

And of the menu, it's well-known that Stein is the chef who put fish on the map – culinary speaking – allowing it to shine as an equal to main course meats. So it's no surprise that the new Depot menu will benefit from this passionate expertise and will feature some iconic Seafood Restaurant favourites such as Dover sole a la meunière, and salt and pepper prawns.

Another bonus is that much of the fish and seafood will be sourced direct from Padstow, so for those of us who hanker for our Cornish summer holidays to indulge in great fish n' chips or fresh crab, we can now indulge all year round. He's also added some new deliciously enticing meat dishes. Items such as Bavette steak, rabbit stew and stifado give some carnivorous variety, providing a little something for everyone, as a good local restaurant should.

By this reasoning, he explains that he's also deliberately kept to the same price point. 'We're not trying to win Michelin stars here, it's still a place for locals to come with family and friends. The idea is to appeal to everyone as a place where they can enjoy delicious food in a convivial atmosphere.'

So can we expect to see him in the kitchen slavishly calling orders at the pass? 'No not any more,' he laughs. That honour goes to his son Jack and The Depot's long-time Head chef Garry Knowles, while the wine-list has been compiled by his other son Charlie. But, he adds, he will definitely be in the restaurant regularly – visibly indulging in his new role as quality control guru and chief taster.

Tideway Yard, 125 Mortlake High Street SW14 8SN; 020 8878 9462; rickstein.com

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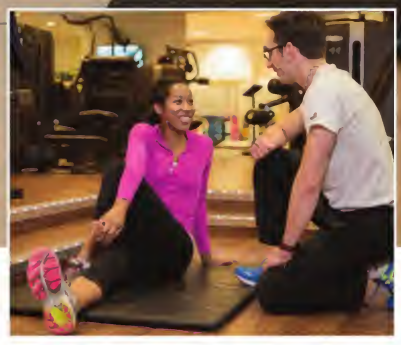

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Raw chocolate is revered for its health benefits, and as an ingredient it's very versatile, working well in both savoury and sweet dishes, as Barnes resident Kathy Kordalis's new book, *The Goodness of Raw Chocolate*, highlights superbly. Recipes range from cacao & spiced-rubbed chicken, through to sweet treats like peanut butter truffles.

The Goodness of Raw Chocolate by Kathy Kordalis is out now, priced at £9.99 hardback; kathykordalis.com

FOOD *NOTEBOOK*

Four courses we all need to sample

FEAST FOR ALL

Wednesday 19 April will see the opening of The Ivy Café, Richmond, the latest venue from The Ivy Collection. It will be open seven days a week and feature an all-day café-style menu, as well as a selection of unique cocktails.
9-11 Hill Street TW9 1SX; 020 3146 7733

Pretty as a picture

Dorsett Shepherds Bush has unveiled a delicious new menu at its Pictures restaurant. Created by the hotel's recently appointed Executive Chef, Nitin Padwal, guests can expect an array of culinary delights ranging from fresh salads to hearty main courses, with a delectable range of desserts to finish. Make sure you end the night in style at Dorsett Shepherds Bush's popular Jin Bar with a post-dinner tipple or two.

020 3262 1026; dorsetthotels.com

Wind of change

Hawkers Bar & Brasserie, Kingston-Upon-Thames' stylish new neighbourhood arrival, has opened its doors to the public. With a nod towards Art Deco inspiration, the chic bar and restaurant is shaking up the Kingston dining scene with delicious, locally sourced all-day British comfort food with European influences. Paying homage to local hero Harry Hawker, whose 1920s aviation company designed the famous Hawker Hurricane, Hawkers Bar & Brasserie makes a stylish addition to the culinary scene.

1 Skerne Road KT2 5FJ; 020 3146 4144; hawkerskingston.com

THE COLTON ARMS

Words RACHEL MANTOCK

Hands down, this is now my favourite pub in London. As soon as I stepped through the doors, I was sold. It sits charmingly and unobtrusively along a quiet road and is like a refined version of the creaky, cottage-like pubs you'd expect to find deep in the countryside. Inside, you forget you're in London completely, with the tiny outdoor courtyard just in my eye line, housed in by a tall brick wall, all I could see was the night sky, and the whole affair felt quintessentially rural.

Their scrummy Scotch eggs sell out quickly so roll up early to see what all the fuss is about

I gushed about the cosy feel of the interiors to the staff on more than one occasion, often forgetting to actually order a drink or food because I was too busy rattling off about how great they were. Once I finally got down to ordering (eventually my body realised it was, in fact, starving) I went for a simple sausage roll to start and some sweet white wine. It's hard to find a wine that manages to balance real sweetness with palatability; it's often almost bitter or sickly sweet. Not at The Colton Arms, they got it spot on. And I'm a hard one to please, they say those who never know what they like but always know what they don't like are difficult – I'm definitely one of those.

I was keen to try their small plate Scotch egg option too, but they'd sold out by popular demand to my displeasure, although the wine was rolling in glass after glass and the sausage roll was fufilling enough that I soon forgot all about the much wanted Scotch egg.

For my main course I chose a creamy mushroom ravioli dish while my guest had the hanger steak with Confit garlic, chips and béarnaise, both were comfort food gold. Then for dessert – as soon as I saw salted caramel fondant with vanilla ice cream listed first on the menu, I was won over instantly. I then moved on to impatiently staring down my dinner date while he took what seemed like forever to decide before settling on the apple and rhubarb crumble with custard. I practically leapt into my dessert as soon as it hit the table. Everything my guest said during those ten or so minutes I was lavishing in my fondant went in one ear and out the other. I wasn't even apologetic because my dessert was just glorious. I'm sure he enjoyed his too.

I've never really been one for pubs. Call it snobbery if you must. Yet The Colton Arms oozes 'pub' in such a way that you can't help but fall in love with it. So to their tasteful recent refurbishment, I say job well done.

COST
All dishes are under £20, while small dishes are all under £10 and bottomless brunch costs £25 per person

GOOD FOR...
A rural feel in the city

WHAT TO EAT...
Their super popular Scotch egg, but if sold out go for the sausage roll to start

WHAT TO KNOW...
You need to mentally prepare yourself to leave, it's so cosy you will want to drop to sleep

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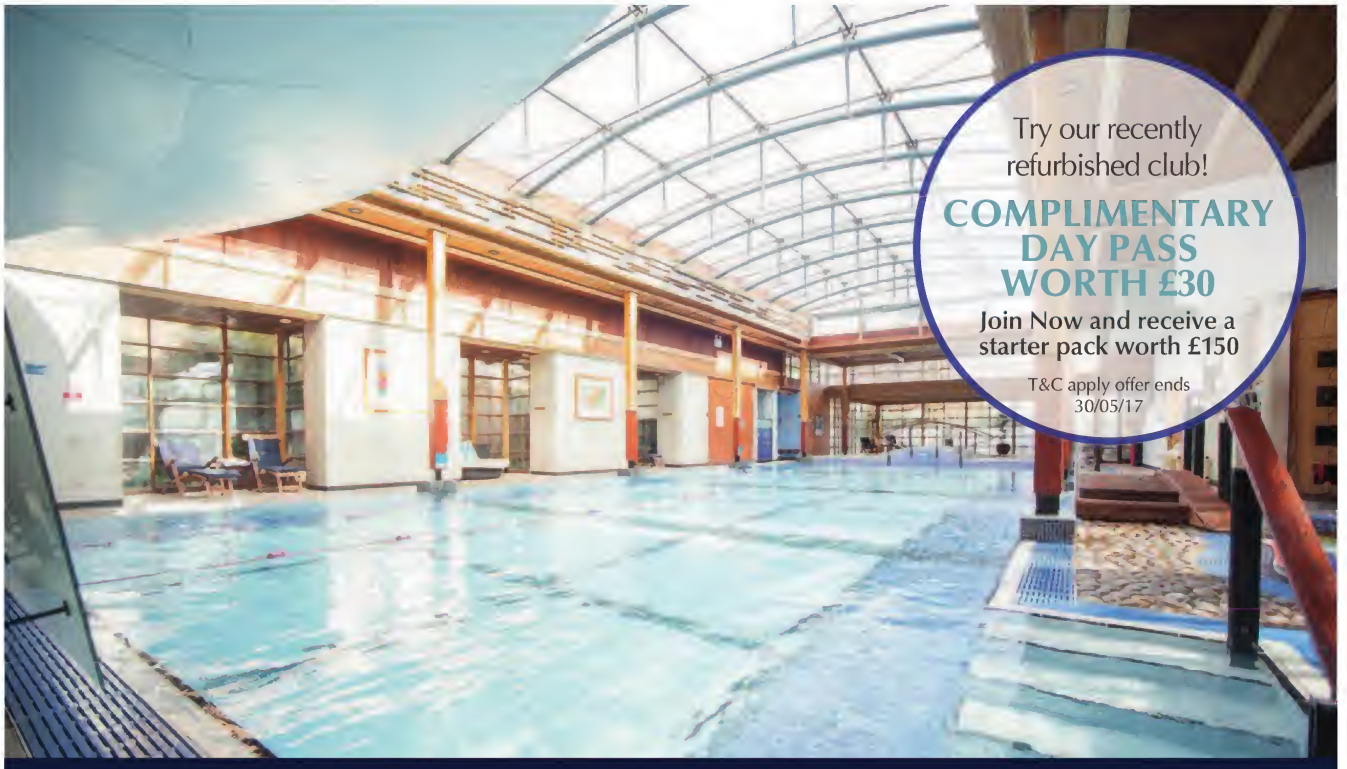

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BEAUTY EDITOR'S PICK

With summer just around the corner, it's time to lighten up on the fragrance front. Step forward Jo Malone London's new Star Magnolia scent, a sparkling white floral, kissed with orange blossom, ginger and shiso. Star Magnolia Cologne 30ml £46, Hair Mist 50ml £38; jomalone.co.uk

HEALTH & FITNESS *NOTEBOOK*

The latest in wellbeing from Shona Wallace

3 of the best SUPERCHARGED SMOOTHIES

THE ALL-AMERICAN: Peanut Butter & Jelly berry and nut butter smoothie at Barry's Bootcamp Central and East; barrysbootcamp.com

THE FRUITY SHAKE: Pretty in Pink vanilla, strawberry and blueberry shake at Neat Café at Lululemon Regent Street; neat-nutrition.com

THE LEAN AND GREEN: Tap Back coconut, pineapple and spinach smoothie at Psycle Energy Kitchen, Mortimer Street and Canary Wharf; psyclelondon.com

DELICIOUS AL DESKO

Incite lunch envy in your colleagues with a scrumptious meal from Pollen + Grace. Approved by nutritionists, every dish on the spring menu is free from gluten, dairy and refined sugars.

pollenandgrace.com

Mind the bumps

Inspired by the many benefits of exercising when expecting, Mumhood is a new online platform from Frame founders Pip Black and Joan Murphy. Designed for women at all stages of their pregnancy, Mumhood offers a whole host of expert guidance, at-home workouts and pre and post-natal classes in the studios. What's more, this month they've joined forces with Mamas & Papas on a line of stylish, comfy leisurewear for yummy mummies to be.

Prices from £19, available in sizes 8 to 18; moveyourframe.com

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PUPPET MASTER

There's a new fascia focused treatment in town that aims to realign your posture and re-centre your energy

Words RACHEL MANTOCK

The concept of rolfing has been around for decades, despite it being relatively new to the modern city wellbeing scene. Coined by American biochemist Dr Ida Pauline Rolf who specialised in cell change, she was determined to find a solution to help her family that was plagued with mobility problems. She was fascinated by the early Indian settlers in New York and began observing the way their yoga treatments impacted the body, soon realising the significant impact it had on the way people moved. She launched the The Rolf Institute of Structural Integration in the 70s, a form of alternative medicine centred around ten hands on physical manipulation sessions.

The Hogarth Clinic's Prue Rankin-Smith has practiced rolfing for 30 years, though training in rolfing only began in the UK very recently. She says that the treatment essentially aims to realign your posture and change the way your bones move while also restoring balance to the body, and believes that Ida Rolf worked on the principle that the body is placid, adaptable and mouldable.

'Rolfers encourage your natural posture to change by the deep tissue work that we do,' Rankin-Smith explains. 'We don't work on muscle, but we work on fascia, which is the wrapping of the muscle. We are not treating a problem, rather we are treating the person to establish a better way of moving, which has an enormous effect on one's general wellbeing. We work on you as a whole person, emotionally and physically. Rolfers use a long term approach, we are not quick fix it people. We aim to cause a change in the whole body, not just in one area.'

Emotional baggage really does affect the way you physically carry yourself

Thinking back to what first interested her in rolfing, Rankin-Smith said she'd heard about the treatment and was intrigued, having already been trained in reflexology, so she tried it out for herself and has never looked back. She says: 'When I first experienced rolfing, it changed how I felt about myself, the way I was walking was quite defensive. I walked more softly, taller and it didn't take much effort for me to stand tall with good posture like it used to. A lot of your emotional history will come out during these treatments too because emotional baggage really does affect the way you physically carry yourself.'

She leaves me with a simple summary or rolfing, stating that 'it is about mind, body and soul, sitting hunched over at your desk in the office day in and day out is actually not how the body should naturally sit. Rolfing is like a full MOT for the body. We service our cars every year to prevent breakdown, yet we only focus on our bodies once something has gone wrong. There is a better way.'

Airedale Avenue W4 2NW; 020 8995 4600; thehogarth.co.uk

Rolfing focuses on the wrapping of the muscle, known as fascia

Nature's BEASTS

Snowmass and Aspen are known for their snowy mountain views, but holiday there in the summer and you'll see them in all their sun kissed glory

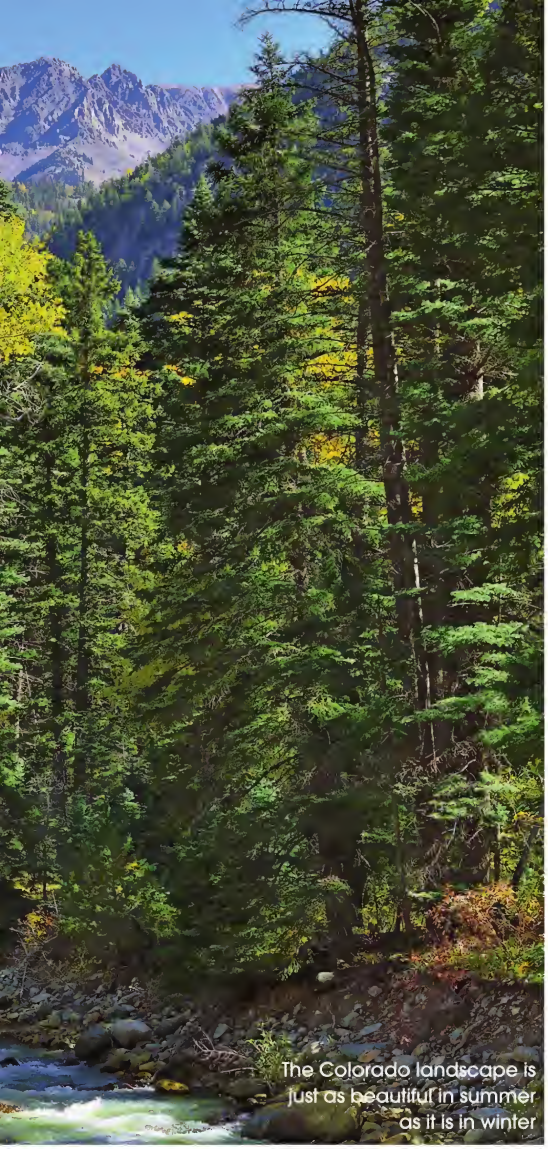
Words: RACHEL MANTOCK

The apartments at The Crestwood Lodge are full of classic country looks

As soon as you take a moment to stop in the open air and look deep into the Snowmass landscape wrapped around you, the sight before your eyes takes a moment to adjust to, surreal in every way, like you're on an uncannily realistic set of Jurassic Park, the huge, jagged mountains surrounding you. Of course, in Snowmass the mountains are scarcely dotted with tastefully modern homes that complement the natural protected landscape, with eye-watering prices attached might I add.

The air is crisper than London's city smog, something that I've come to value enormously in the places I visit. Clean air is a luxury reserved for those who don't crave the buzz of city life and when watching the Snowmass locals go about their daily business calmly and happily, often at one with the great outdoors, you almost forget why the city life has any appeal at all.

After getting acquainted with our cosy, country classic lodgings at The Crestwood Lodge, most of us dropped to bed in an instant only to be awakened by a short burst of rain that was followed by a glorious bout of sunshine. It was the perfect weather to attend the huge Wanderlust festival taking place, welcoming yoga buffs from all over the world to partake in entry level and advanced yoga out in the open. I'm not a keen yogi by any means, but when in sun bathed Snowmass, I thought I'd give it my best go and opted for the Rim Trail Hike, which takes you to the top of a mini mountain of sorts where you meditate on top of a giant marble Ying Yang sign with total strangers, feeling like you're on top of the world. I found myself some pals to talk to on the hike upwards and found it enjoyably hard and



The Colorado landscape is just as beautiful in summer as it is in winter

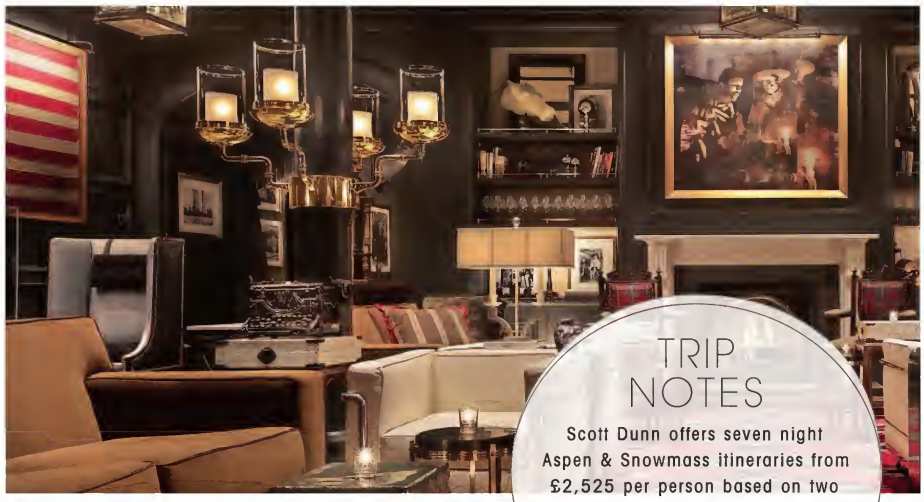
oddly exhilarating once completed, the breathtaking views surrounding me serving as my reward.

The Britishness in me suddenly took over when it came to mediating with a random partner on top of the beautiful Ying Yang sign that shimmered in the blazing sunlight, and I felt out of my comfort zone. But once we all closed our eyes, it was as if it was only you, the mountains and the elements there, all sharing this quiet moment together. Connecting with nature has never been one of my priorities, but that's probably the closest I've ever got to experiencing it, and I'm definitely better for it.

As soon as we simmered down for dinner, my legs started to feel the burn of the day's activities. It's no wonder that Snowmass locals are all so fighting fit – a mere mountain hike is child's play to them, getting stuck in with the looming landscapes that surround them every day. The next day we tried our luck at mountain biking, something we all found thrilling, even if I did lack a few advanced skills.

In need of some TLC, we headed down to the luxurious Viceroy Hotel for massages before our glamorous New Orleans inspired feast in the restaurant that left me stuffed but unable to stop eating at the same time. Venturing down to the Snowmass Rodeo in the blazing sun was a real highlight too, giving us a chance to immerse ourselves in Colorado culture.

Hotel Jerome is a historic masterpiece, its interiors evoking a sense of the building's past



I was sad to leave my rustic apartment that I'd called home for the last few days when the time came to make the move over to Aspen Town, though I was in for a completely new type of treat at Hotel Jerome. The historic building oozes old school Colorado luxury and felt like something fit for President George Washington, like a perfectly preserved interior from a bygone era.

They even have a beautiful abstract painting of a water boy who apparently drowned in their pool a century or so ago, and it's rumoured he haunts the corridors, leaving random wet footprints everywhere. This quirky piece of history made me love Hotel Jerome all that much more. For a 'haunted' dwelling, I'd never had such a peaceful sleep, in a bed that was big enough for an entire family and stacked high with fluffy layers like I'd emerged out of The Princess & The Pea fairytale.

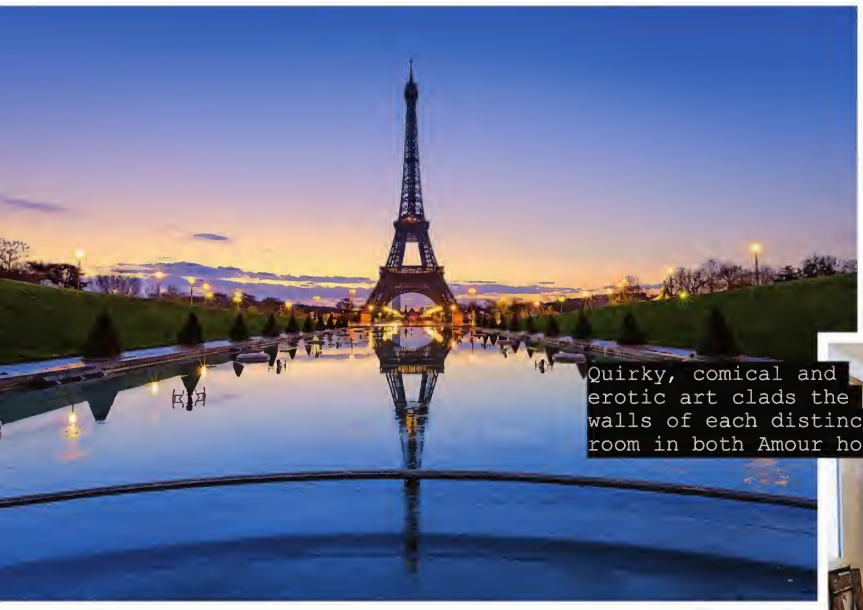
You'd be mad not to venture around Aspen's old town for a day, it's a chance to forget it's 2017 for a moment, like you're venturing around the real life version of a Cowboy Western, minus the violence. It was truly fascinating. And it would be a mistake not to explore the arts scene, which is eye opening in a completely different kind of way. The artistic and theatre talent in this town is astonishing, from outdoor renditions of *Mama Mia* to the eclectic offering available at the Aspen Art Museum, which is a masterpiece in itself – I could marvel at it all day from the sidewalk.

Once you've had enough of being firmly on the ground, jump in a cable cart up Aspen Mountain and grab your share of Instagram gold with panoramic views your friends will envy. Make sure to organise a night time mountain Stargazing Aventure with The Little Nell and you won't be disappointed. It's like an explosion of giant fireflies against an inky black sky. Though you'll be sad to leave, you'll know you ended your summer in Snowmass and Aspen in the best way possible, up in the mountains marvelling at the unobscured starry night sky.

To find out more visit gosnowmass.com and aspenchamber.org

TRIP NOTES

Scott Dunn offers seven night Aspen & Snowmass itineraries from £2,525 per person based on two travelling and includes return BA flights and private airport transfers. For more information visit scottdunn.com



Quirky, comical and erotic art clads the walls of each distinctive room in both Amour hotels

A SULTRY SPECTACLE

Visit Paris to find humour in the spectacular city's sensual cultural landscape with the Amour hotels

Words RACHEL MANTOCK

TRIP NOTES

A stay at Hotel Amour or Hotel Grand Amour start from £121 for one night in a double room on a room only basis. Travelling to Paris from London using the Eurostar starts from £29 one way.

I'd never been to Paris before, and unlike most girls I'd never felt the need to go. I couldn't see why the beautiful city would still appeal to anyone outside of gushy doe eyed couples who seemed to have cheapened the whole idea of it. Yet I stood corrected after I spent a weekend in the vibrant city, there wasn't a gushy couple in sight and I soon realised that Parisians were anything but romance obsessed. They were too cool for school and laid-back, the girls clad in on trend netted tights and crimson lipstick, their fabulous accents tying the whole look together wonderfully.

After completing a comfortable Eurostar journey where the time practically flew by, meaning that I could have sworn we arrived in Paris five minutes after we left St Pancras, our first stop was Hotel Amour. Comically, I was met with a bronze Mickey Mouse statue with exaggerated phallic qualities at the reception desk, something I later found out to be a mascot of sorts that you'll find in both of the Amour hotels. The walls in the restaurant area were clad in artsy vintage photos of nude women, and once in our hotel room we were met with a huge pink and blue photo of plump naked cartoons splashed against the tar black of the walls, a provocative design that was quintessentially French with tongue in cheek undertones.

I'd inhabited a gorgeous old school Parisian apartment for the weekend, with glimpses of its original features here and there, not to mention the huge free-standing bathtub and room sized shower. After a long dreamy sleep, we went in search of an obscure café with checked tablecloths for lunch, like you're supposed to when in Paris, and ate succulent steak with a juicy bone filled with marrow on the side.

We then headed to the Eiffel Tower, because of course I had to see it in person at least once. I decided I liked it better from afar once we'd walked quite a length away from it, because how else could you appreciate it in its full glory.

As fascinating as the Eiffel Tower was, I was more captivated by the historic churches and chapels dotted throughout the Paris landscape, like the ethereal Cathedrale Notre Dame, the Madeleine, Basilique du Sacré Coeur, the Sainte Chapelle and the magnificent Saint Eustache. Each one was divine and precious in that ancient sort of way that made you feel wiser, more spiritual and thoughtful just for having stood in between their walls. I've always been completely enthralled by religious architecture, but I'd find it hard to believe that most wouldn't be at least a little stunned by Paris' historic chapels.

We spent our last night at the equally risqué Grand Hotel Amour, where we were greeted by our unclothed bronze friend once again. I grew to love the smoker filled peach pink courtyard dotted with climbing plants in the middle of Grand Hotel Amour where we sat enjoying cocktails for hours, before sinking into bed and making our way home in the morning. So, Paris isn't just for gushy doe eyed couples after all.

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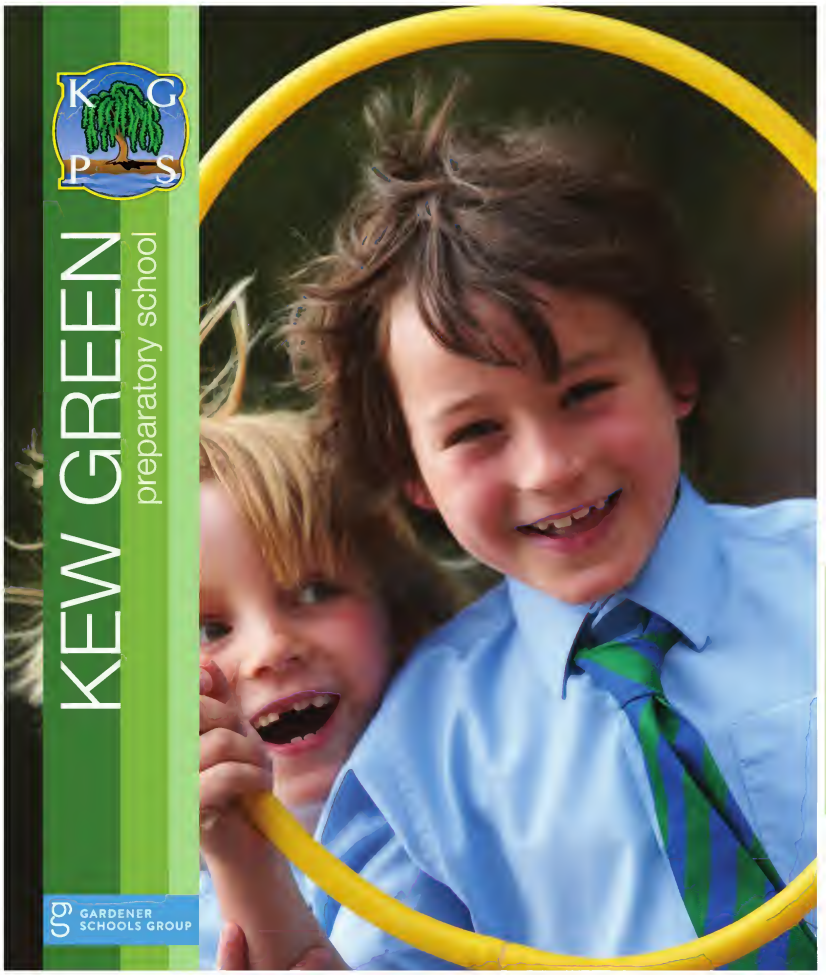

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ROOM *to* BREATHE

Country or city schools? Or do we really need to make such a choice?

Words BELLA AUDSLEY

Handcross Park in West Sussex can offer the best of all worlds

Choosing the right school for your child can sometimes mean choosing the right environment for your family. It is common for families to move house in order to be guaranteed a place in the local nursery's two-metre radius catchment area, or to relocate to greener pastures where metaphorical catchment areas only exist to help parents avoid driving for hours on the school run. Parents often come to us to seek advice as a choice between country and city schools can amount to a wider decision about a rural or urban upbringing for their children.

Does the school's location affect the availability of places? School places in London have become increasingly competitive, with some schools citing that they receive over ten applicants per place. The race for schools has had a direct impact on property and raises an important question about their location. However, it's not just city schools that are seeing a rise in interest. While top independent schools in London are notoriously oversubscribed, the entry process for schools in the countryside tends to be less competitive (although some popular schools may also issue waiting lists). Even though cities can offer a wide range of school choices, it is important to consider which application process will be most appropriate for your child.

The surroundings will have an effect on your child's everyday life

What impact do rural and urban schools have on your family's lifestyle? The school's surroundings will undoubtedly have an effect on your child's everyday life. It is important to consider the impact of transport on your family's daily routine. Some further-afield parents may find that a lot of time is spent driving children to school, clubs or friend's houses. Adolescents in particular can benefit from the freedom of a city's public transport. Families living in the countryside may cherish the vast array of outdoor adventures, sense of community and relaxed pace; whereas urban parents may thrive on the limitless cultural activities a few underground stops away to keep their children, and themselves, busy. But parents don't have to choose exclusively between picking blackberries or picking popcorn flavours; weekends and holidays are a brilliant way to show children a new environment.

Is it necessary to choose? If you're still struggling to decide, and the thought of leaving London leaves you wanting to run a country mile, boarding schools can offer the perfect compromise. Many top boarding schools are located in impressive leafy surroundings and boast extensive space and facilities, allowing children to experience a balance of urban and rural lifestyles during term time and the holidays.

While there is no definitive answer, as both options present their own benefits, we hope that these aspects will help you with this decision. Each child is individual and different environments may be more suitable for different stages in their life. The key question to consider is not 'should we move home?', but 'where do our children feel most at home?'.

Bella Audsley is a part of the Enjoy Education team. For more information and advice, visit enjoyeducation.co.uk or call 020 7352 8800

DISCOVERMORE

Embracing an innovative, modern approach whilst keeping traditional values at its core, Kew House School takes an exciting stance on 21st century education. With state-of-the-art facilities, a broad curriculum and excellent pastoral care, Kew House is a place where you would want to be – a place of learning and discovery, laughter and friendship.

Currently recruiting into the Sixth Form with a new Sixth Form Centre opening in 2017.

Open Days

May 16th (7pm)

June 28th (9.15am)

September 19th (9.30am)

October 11th (9.30am)

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W: www.kewhouseschool.com

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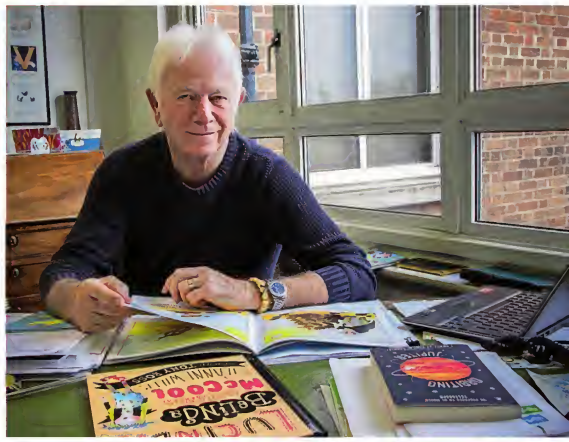
GARDENER SCHOOLS GROUP

Youngsters visiting the Barnes Children's Festival will be delighted to meet Tony Ross, below



LITTLE THINGS *in* LIFE

One of the guest speakers at the Barnes Children's Literature Festival, Tony Ross reveals the strange inspiration behind a runaway success

Words RACHEL MANTOCK

A much anticipated guest at this year's Barnes Children's Literature Festival, author of the wildly popular *Little Princess* series Tony Ross will discuss the journey from inspiration to nationwide franchise and delve into the ins and outs of all your favourite characters, from the *Little Princess* herself to his illustrations for *Horrid Henry* and *Gangsta Granny*.

The *Little Princess* was inspired by an evening Ross spent waiting for his daughter to finish using the toilet when he popped his head round the door and said 'come on princess!' to which she replied 'I am not a princess, I am a little girl!' That whole conversation stuck with him until he used the three main components of a princess, a little girl and a lavatory to write the first ever *Little Princess* book, where the young princess doesn't make it to the toilet in time.

'I absolutely did not expect anything to come of it,' Ross reveals. 'I have never been the sort of person who writes for widespread recognition, I always write what I want to write whether it is successful or not, but there is no way you can predict success or failure.

'Often books I am wildly enthusiastic about don't do too well and books that I just wrote on a whim do really well,' he continues. 'The key is not to write for applause, you have to love playing with words and hidden meanings. Paintings are all about what is on the surface, whereas with words you can twist and bend their characteristics.'

Thirty or so years later, The Little Princess is a global phenomenon among young children, even securing its own daytime TV show. Ross explains that everything he writes about is to do with everyday happenings in his life, often the finished product serving as an abstract version of the truth. Looking to the future, there's a new David Walliams book in the pipeline and a story about ants during World War I in the works!

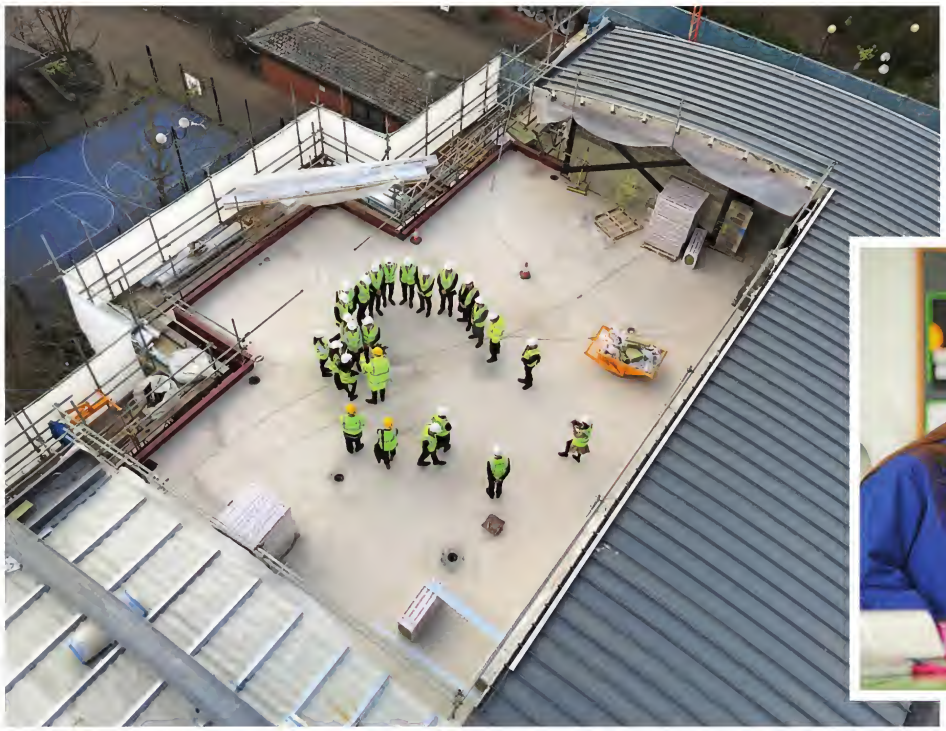
barneskidslitfest.org

WORD PLAY

Barnes will be welcoming some of the best names in writing from 13-14 May

Returning for a third time, the Barnes Children's Literature Festival will offer an inspiring and entertaining programme including author talks, workshops, story time, craft sessions, music, film and more. Joining Tony Ross will be Michael Rosen, David Baddiel, Adrian Edmondson, Clare Balding, Francesca Simon (below) and more, and events this year include a new interactive *Harry Potter* show and a series of workshops from Aardman Animation, the Oscar-winning creators of *Wallace & Gromit*.

LIESEL BOCKL, MARK GUEST, HELEN GILES



The brand new Sixth Form Centre will also feature a fantastic roof terrace offering widespread views

HABITS FOR LIFE

Headmaster at Kew House School, Mark Hudson, discusses the importance of self discipline and why he's pushing girls to go for STEM subjects

Words: RACHEL MANTOCK

With their brand new, multi use Sixth Form Centre set to launch in summer, the team at Kew House School are excited about the year ahead. Headmaster at the highly regarded school, Mark Hudson, explains: 'We will have use of the building from the first week of August. The maths department will take over the entire top floor, while our careers hub will also be housed in this new building.

'The entire ground floor will be dedicated as an independent learning centre. It will be like a huge awesome library, but with a big tech element and café too. It's a wonderful opportunity for students to teach themselves how to conduct their own learning time under an Independent Learning Manager.'

Hudson can't stress enough the pivotal nature of becoming self disciplined with your education before you leave school and is pioneering Kew House's new Independent Learning Centre as a university style set up. 'This is one of the first steps to acquiring a set of skills that will carry you through life especially when it comes to university education and throughout their careers,' he says. 'If first year university students who have come from a school where they have been intensively managed and very controlled only inside a classroom environment, they will get a bit of a shock.'

The experienced Head also points out that the UCAS system is changing drastically and fewer and fewer universities are still holding interviews as part of the screening process, therefore the significance lies within the student's personal statement. 'Extra-curricular activities will back up the claims you make in your personal statement and we are making sure our students are involved in these activities well in advance,' he states proudly.

I have been fighting for more women to be included in STEM my whole career

Hudson is also relentless in his efforts to encourage more female students into STEM subjects in the hope that they will opt for these students at university too. He's allocated staff to specifically push this agenda because he knows how crucial those subjects are in our ever-changing world. 'I have been fighting for more women to be included in STEM fields my whole career,' he says 'Some of the best students I have put forward for engineering have been women.' With a new rowing club also in the works, Kew House is certainly heading in the right direction.

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Introductory talk at 9.30am

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Quality of Teaching - **"Excellent"**
Quality of Extra-curricular Provision - **"Excellent"**
Quality of Pastoral Care - **"Excellent"**
Quality of Links with Parents - **"Excellent"**
Quality of Pupils' Personal Development – **"Excellent"**

"The curriculum is excellent for all ages and abilities, and is expertly matched to meet the needs of the range of pupils in the school."
Independent Schools Inspectorate Report - March 2016

Open Mornings

9.00am Thursday, 4 May 2017
9.00am Tuesday, 13 June 2017

To register your attendance at one of our open mornings, please phone 0208 846 9153 or mail secretary@rpps.co.uk

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A Woodard School

PROPERTY

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SECOND CHANCE

This stunning flat near Askew Road is a must see

This is a stunning interior designed ground floor garden flat that offers a fabulous 27' reception/entertaining space leading into a secluded garden. There are two double bedrooms, both of which are of good proportions, and the bathroom is complemented by an additional WC that offers space for a shower unit.

Second Avenue, W3, £775,000 with Philip Wooller; 020 8811 2929; philipwooller.com

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PROPERTY *NEWS*

Key new developments in the London market

Best of the west

Time is running out for buyers to secure themselves a house in one of west London's most exciting new neighbourhoods. Just three townhouses, at the time of writing, remain for sale in the West Park Quarter phase at Acton Gardens, which is transforming a huge 52-acre site in South Acton into a vibrant new urban village. Situated close to Chiswick and Ealing, the development combines sleek, contemporary architecture on tree-lined streets, green open spaces and a wide range of community facilities to offer a fantastic urban lifestyle.

A four bedroom townhouse is priced at £850,000. For more visit actongardens.co.uk or call 020 8993 6923

Property of the month

Warwick Gardens, W14
£2,250,000

Arranged over the second and third floors of a beautifully maintained period building, this generous three bedroom apartment has been recently refurbished to the highest of standards and is flooded with natural light throughout.

On the second floor as you enter the property you will find a wonderful master bedroom with walk in wardrobe and en-suite bathroom, an additional two bedrooms each with built in wardrobes and one with en-suite, and a further guest shower room. On the third floor you will find a most impressive living area and open-plan kitchen with wooden flooring, fireplaces and access to the south-facing roof terrace. The kitchen features Miele appliances, and throughout the apartment you will find underfloor heating and built in surround sound.

For more contact Carter Jonas on 020 7371 1111 or visit carterjonas.co.uk

Joining forces

John D Wood & Co. has completed its merger with Faron Sutaria, the London estate agency established over 40 years ago in Notting Hill. The merger will see greater coverage in Kensington & Chelsea with additional branches in South Kensington, Sloane Square and Earl's Court and a larger team in Notting Hill; Fulham with an additional office on the Broadway; in west London where its new Shepherd's Bush branch links up Notting Hill and Chiswick; and extends its reach in north London with a new Islington office.

See more at johndwood.co.uk

Cut to the Chase

Nestled in an idyllic location on the edge of the village of Ham and bordered by the ancient woodland of Richmond Park, Richmond Chase by Berkeley Homes offers a rare opportunity to buy a new family house in this quiet pocket of London – and yet just minutes away from Richmond and Kingston. An elegant four bedroom showhome is now available to view, which showcases the exceptional specification of these family homes, and the private and peaceful setting they enjoy. We love the traditionally-styled fireplace that provides a focal point to the formal sitting room.

Prices start from £1,440,000. For more information, call 020 3883 4198

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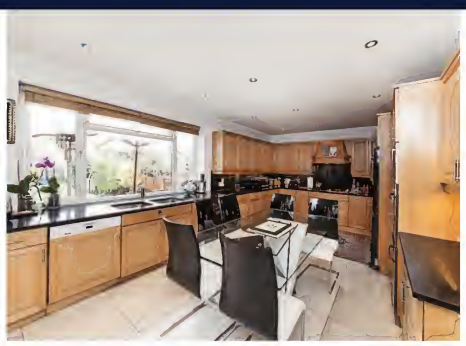
Robertson Smith & Kempson



Park View Road, W5

£3,450,000

This impressive six bedroom five bathroom double fronted detached family home is located on one of Ealing's finest roads offering circa 3600 sq ft of living space over three floors, energy rating f.

Ealing Sales 020 8840 7677

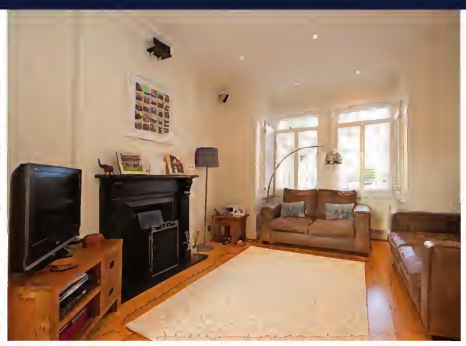
Loveday Road, W13

£1,300,000

This six bedroom semi-detached house has been meticulously maintained and improved by the current owners and consists of front reception room, an impressive kitchen/breakfast room with access to a mature west facing garden, energy rating e.

Northfields Sales 020 8566 2340

Robertson Smith & Kempson



Lyncroft Gardens, W13

£3,596 per month

A stunning five bedroom family home with private off street parking, close to Lammas and Walpole Parks and convenient for the local amenities and transport links of Northfields and Ealing Broadway, energy rating f.

Northfields Lettings 020 8280 2800

Creffield Road, W5

£2,496 per month

This two bedroom two bathroom apartment has been refurbished to the highest standard. The living room is open plan to the dining room and kitchen and also has direct access to a private garden and allocated parking, energy rating c.

Ealing Lettings 020 8840 7885

Tenants fees apply: £180 per tenancy towards administration, £60 reference fee per tenant and £144 towards the end of tenancy check out report (all inc of VAT).

RICS Regulated Estate Agent and Letting Agent

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www.johnmartinestates.com

EALING W5

£1,750,000 FREEHOLD

A rare opportunity to acquire a fully detached Edwardian style villa in the heart of Pitshanger Village which has been in the same ownership for decades. The property is now ready for modernisation and has a wealth of period features including picture rails, coved ceilings and stained glass windows. To the ground floor are two spacious reception rooms, conservatory, large kitchen/diner, utility room and cloakroom. There are five good sized bedrooms to the first floor, together with an en suite bathroom and large shower room. There is also an expansive fully boarded loft, gas fired central heating and large front and rear gardens.

Energy Performance Rating - F

82 Pitshanger Lane, Ealing W5 1QX
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"PITSHANGER'S COMMUNITY ESTATE AGENT"

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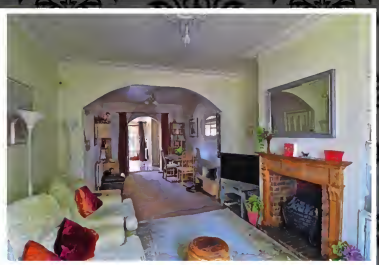
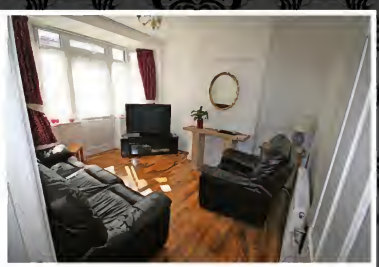


EALING W5 — £875,000 FREEHOLD

A spacious centre terraced bay fronted Edwardian style family home in the heart of Pitshanger Village. The expansive living accommodation includes a large double volume lounge, open plan kitchen/diner, study/storeroom and cloakroom to the ground floor. To the first floor are three good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom. Other benefits include gas fired central heating, double glazing, array of period style features, boarded out loft providing storage and development potential (subject to usual planning consents) as well as award winning gardens, the rear featuring uninterrupted views over Brentham Garden Estate.

Energy Performance Rating - E



EALING W13 — £650,000 FREEHOLD

A superbly updated semi-detached family home moments from Scotch Common and Pitshanger Park and offered in excellent condition throughout. The property is arranged over three floors and offers bright and airy accommodation including two spacious reception rooms, modern fitted kitchen, four good sized bedrooms, modern family bathroom to first floor and shower room to top floor. There is also the benefit of gas fired central heating and double glazed windows. Outside there is off street parking to the front and a south facing rear garden and a garage with both power and light.

Energy Performance Rating - D

MY DREAM HOME

From location to space to play, why this is an opportunity not to miss

There is an incredible amount of space and light throughout the property

CARLILE PLACE, TW10

David Hill,
Associate Director
Marsh & Parsons,
Richmond

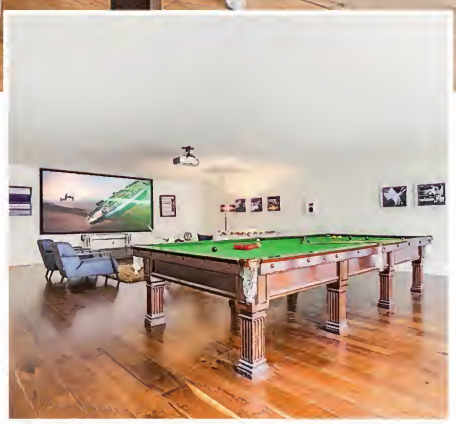
Why it's a great buy...
Located on one of the most sought-after roads on Richmond Hill, this stunning detached family home offers the ideal balance between privacy, seclusion, and proximity to Richmond town centre.

The wow factor...
The abundance of space! Arranged over three floors, with an unbelievable 6,000 sq ft to play with, the options for entertaining are endless.

Who it would suit...
This impressive seven-bedroom property is ideal for a modern family. With six bathrooms, enhanced security and a large garden for the kids, Carlile Place is the ultimate family home.

My favourite room...
The games room – hands down. Who doesn't love a game of pool or watching a film, cinema-style, in their own home?

Why you should buy it...



Many aspire to live on Richmond Hill, but with the combination of space, light and location, this incredible property has it all.

£5,500,000
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West Temple Sheen, SW14 £2,000,000

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• Four double bedrooms • Off-street parking • Landscaped west-facing garden • Moments from Richmond Park

East Sheen Sales: 020 8033 9048 sales.esh@marshandparsons.co.uk

MARSH & PARSONS

Kings Road, TW10 £600 per week

An immaculate and stylish two-bedroom split-level house, with private parking and a west-facing decked garden, situated on Richmond Hill, close to Richmond Park. EPC=B

• Exceptional condition • Close to Richmond Park • Private decked garden • Off-street parking

Richmond Lettings: 020 8033 9032 sales.ric@marshandparsons.co.uk

MARSH & PARSONS

LIFE AT THE TOP

London's penthouses ooze luxury, style not to mention outstanding views

Words FIONA BRANDHORST

A penthouse has always been the ultimate trophy home since it was created in New York back in the 1920s. Today, London's penthouses crown some of the tallest buildings across the capital with unbelievable views of the city, offering superb amenities and vast living spaces.

Charles Lloyd, Head of Savills Mayfair, says penthouse buyers expect a large lateral footprint, incredible views and generous outside space. 'They are looking for exclusivity and privacy, which often includes a private lift up to their apartment.' The 3,405 sq ft penthouse at the Park Place Residences in Mayfair is arranged over the fourth and fifth floors of an Art Deco-inspired building with direct lift access. Priced at £13.95m, owners will also enjoy a sixth floor timber-decked roof terrace, offering spectacular 360 degree views of London. The penthouse suite even has its own library and is only a few footsteps from the Ritz, Fortnum & Mason and celebrity eatery Le Caprice.

Soon to be soaring into the city sky are six exclusive penthouses across the 40th, 41st and 42nd floors at 250 City Road by Berkeley Homes in EC1. Located in the very heart of the capital's tech and creative quarter, the penthouses are at the apex of the scheme's Carrara Tower. The two two-bedroom and four three-bedroom penthouses are arranged in lateral, duplex and triplex configurations. A seventh floor gym with bootcamp terrace, indoor pool and spa, residents' lounge and a 24-hour concierge rival the latest in members' club facilities. Completing from 2020, prices start from £2.35m.

At Dollar Bay in London's world-famous Docklands, Mount Anvil has released four two and three-bedroom penthouse apartments, topping the dramatic 31-storey tower, enjoying extraordinary panoramic views of the London skyline. The three-bedroom penthouses have over 3,000 sq ft of living space, arranged over four storeys with double-height, floor to ceiling windows creating a sense of endless space, while mezzanine levels and winter gardens span multiple floors adding to the visual impact. Jon Hall, Sales & Marketing Director at Mount Anvil, says: 'These properties embody all that this urban, chic neighbourhood has to offer – sophistication and excitement underpinned by an intrinsic sense of innovation and luxury.' Penthouses start at £3.5m.

For buyers preferring a period setting without missing out on a high-tech interior, Jackson-Stops & Staff is selling a contemporary three-bedroom fifth-floor penthouse located just 200m from

Clockwise from top left: The Maple Building in Kentish Town; Dollar Bay will benefit from Canary Wharf's Crossrail station opening in 2017; Chelsea Island offers stunning views of London

Buckingham Palace behind a Grade II listed façade in the Birdcage Walk Conservation area for £4.75m. Over 2,000 sq ft of living space, it includes a sweeping oak staircase leading up to the light-filled, dual aspect living area that flows onto a large roof terrace offering panoramic views of the capital.

Hadley Property Group has recently unveiled its Penthouse Collection at Chelsea Island of three elite homes, each with its own private terrace offering spectacular vistas of London as well as views of the development's landscaped roof terrace, designed by world-renowned Belgravia florist, Neill Strain. The four-bedroom duplex penthouse, priced at £11.95m, is being sold through Cluttons and has more than 2,000 sq ft of outside space as well as a large BBQ/kitchen area ready for summer entertaining with a unique view. 'The best London penthouses exude luxury in every element of their design and build,' adds Simon Tollit, Director of Central London Sales at United Kingdom Sotheby's International Realty.

London's penthouses crown some of the tallest buildings across the capital

Lawyers favouring a walk to work could definitely make a case for the four-bedroom penthouse at Aldwych Chambers, a boutique development of just 20 apartments tucked down historic Essex Street leading to the Thames at one end and the Royal Law Courts of Justice on the Strand at the other. Priced at £4.725m the duplex penthouse has a roof terrace with City of London views.

Steeped in industrial history is The Linton Group's collection of seven duplex penthouses in The Maple Building in Kentish Town. The interiors have been designed by Gordon-Duff & Linton and prices start from £1.295m with Savills.

Where space and luxury is no object, the striking three-bedroom penthouse at St Edward's Gladstone House at 190 The Strand occupies the entire eighth floor offering an impressive 3,649 sq ft of living space, on the market through Knight Frank for £12.7m. The interior design is influenced by the glamour and grandeur of the iconic Art Deco five-star hotels such as The Savoy and Waldorf Astoria located nearby.

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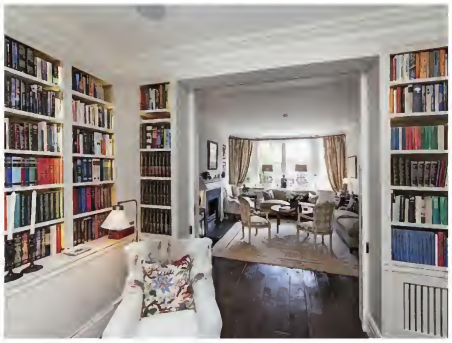

Woodstock Road

£3,995,000

This Grade II listed Bedford Park home designed by the renowned architect Norman Shaw and has undergone a complete refurbishment with a rare attention to both style and detail.

- Grade II Listed
- Bedford Park Home
- Five Bedrooms
- Three Reception Rooms
- Three Bathrooms
- Immaculate Condition

Fletchers

Marlborough Crescent £1,925,000

A four bedroom period home with a double reception/dining area, a modern kitchen with doors leading onto a landscaped garden, energy rating d.

- Four Bedrooms
- Double Reception Room
- Modern Kitchen
- Two Bath/Shower Rooms
- Landscaped Garden
- Near Tube Station

South Parade £1,850,000

A six bedroom Edwardian family home with two receptions, extended kitchen/dining room, a 40 ft. garden with side access and off street parking, energy rating e.

- Edwardian
- Six Bedrooms
- Three Bath/Shower Rooms
- 40 Ft. Garden
- Near Underground Station
- Off Street Parking

St. Marys Grove £1,725,000

A five bedroom detached Victorian home with four bath/shower rooms, a large through reception, an extended kitchen/dining room and a 30 ft. garden, energy rating d.

- Detached
- Five Bedrooms
- Four Bath/Shower Rooms
- Large Reception
- Private Garden
- Near Railway Station

Burnaby Gardens £1,699,950

A refurbished double fronted family home with four double bedrooms, two reception rooms, a modern kitchen, garden, off street parking and a garage, energy rating c.

- Detached House
- Four Double Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Garden
- Garage
- No Onward Chain

Fletchers

Woodstock Road £1,375 pw

A five bedroom Edwardian home with a through reception, a kitchen/breakfast room, a conservatory and a secluded garden, energy rating d.

- Edwardian Home
- Five Bedrooms
- Three Bath/Shower Rooms
- Kitchen/Breakfast Area
- Conservatory
- Secluded Garden

Alwyn Avenue £1,269 pw

A five bedroom semi detached Victorian family home with two reception rooms, two bath/ shower rooms, a large eat-in kitchen and a secluded garden.

- Victorian
- Five Double Bedrooms
- Two Bathrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Pretty Garden
- Semi-Detached

Chiswick Green Studios £950 pw

A penthouse apartment situated in a modern gated development with communal garden areas, concierge, private residents gym, and underground parking, energy rating d.

- Penthouse
- Double Bedroom
- Gated Development
- Open Plan Kitchen
- Private Balcony
- Good Transport Links

Thorney Hedge Road £800 pw

A semi-detached Victorian family home with four bedrooms, a large reception room, modern eat-in kitchen leading onto a private garden and two bath/shower rooms, energy rating e.

- Four bedrooms
- Two bathrooms
- Semi-detached
- Private garden
- Eat in Kitchen
- Close to the High Road

Tenants fees apply: £180 per tenancy towards administration, £60 reference fee per tenant and £144 towards the end of tenancy check out report (all inc of VAT).

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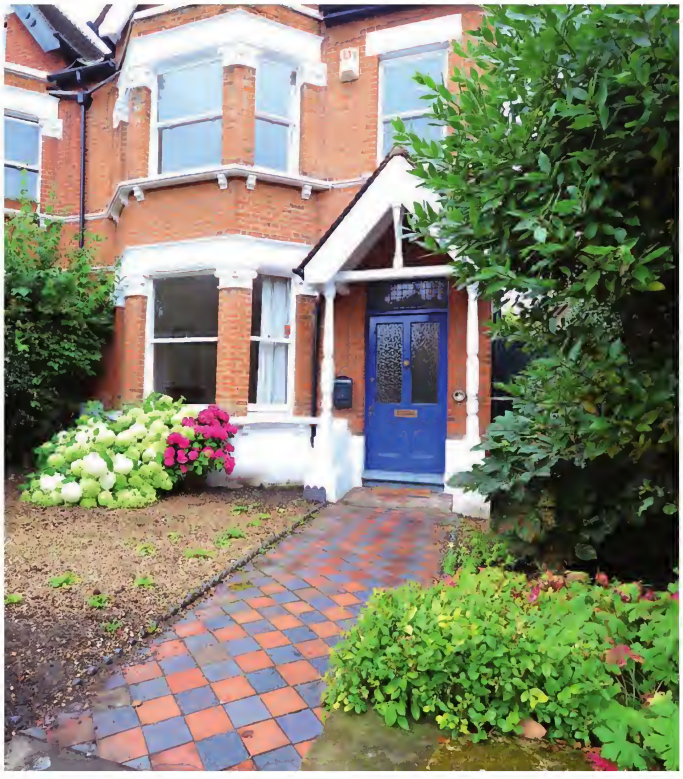

Letting your property can provide an excellent return on your investment but it is essential to have good professional advice and an excellent management team to look after your interests.

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£485,000

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King George Square, Richmond

£550,000

A large one bedroom garden maisonette presented in excellent decorative order in a highly sought after gated development just adjacent to Richmond Park.

Sheen Road, Richmond Town Centre

£699,950

A three bedroom second floor lift-service apartment in a fantastic location right in Richmond Town Centre within a few hundred yards of shops restaurants and the train/tube, which has its own balcony and gated parking.

Mount Ararat Road, Richmond Hill

£925,000

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MY MONTH

David Cantell on how much he enjoys being part of the Richmond community

Sunday lunch is one of my favourite traditions. Anissa loves to cook for a room full of friends, but running our own business means we cannot rest on our laurels. On the Sundays we have to work, we finish in time for the best Sunday lunch around at the Duke's Head on The Vineyard. It is great value with home cooked food and large portions – a perfect combination.

Next month is Richmond's May Ball and we relish the chance take our past, present and future clients out for an evening in the stunning marquee on The Green, it is always a special night for us. The first year we invited just three guests and now we have two tables. This year we are raising money for REACT, a Kew-based organisation that supports families with life-limited children.

Being an integral part of the community is important to us. We love the location of our office. We are in The Alberts in Richmond, nestled between the Red Cow and the White Horse. When we moved here we didn't realise that next door was The Victoria Foundation, a charity that helps youngsters who want careers in medicine, but who do not have the funds. It also supplies treatment and equipment not readily available on the NHS. It is a small, but effective local charity and fits perfectly with our own ethos. Whenever we sponsor TVF events we know we are supporting a great cause and will have an evening to remember.

Relationships always count as selling property is first and foremost about people

In a complete reversal from 2013/2014, when most buyers had nothing to sell (we recorded that 92% of buyers were purchasing a second home or were first time buyers) our buyers are now selling a property to fund the purchase. It may sound obvious but the more solicitors, estate agents, buyers and sellers involved in a transaction, the trickier it can be. Thankfully we all have a great deal of experience.

When a vendor decides to rent while they find their next home, it is all systems go. We always advise our clients not to commit to a rental property until they have exchanged, which can leave very little time to find a stop gap property. Because we are part of a great community we have a fantastic support team. Move it with Sam is run by a very kind and efficient man who juggles his diary to help our clients' move. In addition, we have a group of local people who allow us to let their homes on a short term basis.

Recently, I was having lunch at Richmond Rugby Club, where we are the ball sponsors. I was having a quiet moment looking round the table and I felt really proud to have such a great team around us. It has taken a couple of years to get to this position, but all our hard work has been worth it.

Relationships always count and selling property is first and foremost about people.

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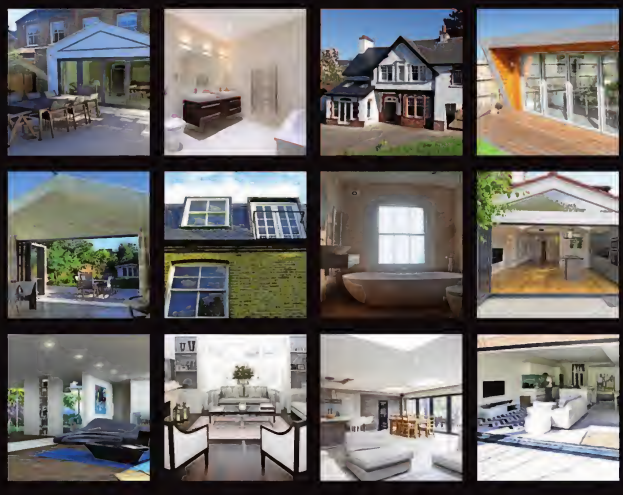

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We have built our agency with values that are underpinned by integrity.
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And as Cantell & Co is a privately-owned estate agent, we are always happy to offer our best advice – Our bottom line is important to us but is not our top priority.

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